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Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat dances in Hebron yesterday with Mayor Mustafa Natshe in celebration of the last day of the Id al-Fitr feast. He is expected to go to Ramallah today, if 23 women prisoners there are released as expected. Arafat was received by dignitaries and a marching band and a delegation of Arab MKs, who said they were impressed by his positive spirit about the future of talks. Arafat himself joked that 'Jerusalem is the capital of Palestine and whoever does not like it can go drink the water of the Dead Sea.'

(Text: Joe Immant; Photo: Reuters)

PM to reveal final-status principles

By DAVID MAKOVSKY

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu will reveal the principles that will guide Israel in final-status talks with the Palestinians to President Bill Clinton and top US officials when they meet on Thursday, the premier's aides indicated yesterday.

He will also tell them the extent of the pullback on the West Bank scheduled for March 7.

"We think it would be a good idea for the Americans to know the basic outlines of our thinking on final status," one Netanyahu aide said, adding that Netanyahu will stick to general principles and not present an exact map.

The extent of the March 7 pullback was one of the two key subjects discussed in consultations between Netanyahu, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, Foreign Minister David Levy, Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, OC Planning Maj.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz, and the premier's top aides.

Netanyahu wants the Americans to understand Israel's stance before the final-status talks begin next month, believing that failure to make it clear could mean that Israel will be isolated internationally.

Meanwhile, Netanyahu convened the entire cabinet yesterday to provide some less informed ministers with a general overview of the Oslo process - past, present, and future. Mordechai, Shahak, and Mofaz, who addressed the ministers, also outlined Israel's strategic interests on the West Bank.

Officials sharply denied a report by Channel 1 that the military called for Israel to keep 52 percent of the West Bank. "This is rubbish," said a military spokesman.

Continued on Page 4

Indyk: Stop debate over Lebanon

By STEVE RODAN

US Ambassador to Israel Martin Indyk last night urged a suspension of the political debate over a unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon.

Speaking to the Israel-America Friendship Association in Tel Aviv, Indyk stressed that he did not want to intervene in Israeli politics, but he added: "I agree with the prime minister that the time is not yet ripe for that [unilateral withdrawal]. If you want to achieve strong and lasting peace on any track it is only through negotiations."

Indyk also said that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu will be discussing a bridging formula with US officials that will allow the resumption of negotiations with Syria.

"We will be consulting to find a bridging formula for the parties," Indyk told reporters. But he added that the US will not press either Syria or Israel to accept such a formula.

"We'll know if we have a successful formula when the negotiations resume," he said. "We don't believe in forcing anybody, especially not a democratic ally."

Har-Shefi to be charged with helping Amir

By EVELYN GORDON

The State Attorney's Office has decided to indict Margalit Har-Shefi for abetting Yigal Amir in assassinating prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, the Justice Ministry announced yesterday.

The indictment will be filed today, 15 months after the assassination, in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court. A Justice Ministry spokesman said the indictment took so long to prepare for two reasons: Har-Shefi was a witness in the conspiracy trial of Amir, his brother Haggai, and Dror Adani, and the State Attorney's Office did not want her testimony to be compromised; and secondly, because six people were being investigated on similar

charges, the investigation involved a lengthy amount of cross-checking.

According to the indictment, Har-Shefi told Amir where the armory in Beit El was located, and also gave him the name of a chemist whom she said could help him make bombs. In the end, however, these attempts to assist Amir were not relevant to the assassination, which Amir committed with his own pistol and bullets manufactured by his brother, Haggai.

The indictment also charges that Har-Shefi, who is a former girlfriend of Amir's, knew he planned to kill Rabin, but failed to inform the proper authorities.

However, five other people who were investigated in connection with the crime will not be prosecuted, the ministry said. The cases against

Ohad Skornik and Binyamin Aharoni were closed due to insufficient evidence, while Shmuel Shaki, Michael Epstein, and Hila Frank were found to be completely in the clear.

Skornik, like Har-Shefi, was suspected of knowing about Amir's plans but keeping silent. He was also suspected of conspiring to commit terror attacks against Palestinians - a crime for which the Amirs and Adani were convicted. Aharoni was suspected of public mischief-making, for calling the media after the assassination and claiming that a group he headed was responsible.

Shaki and Epstein were suspected of conspiring to commit a crime and of not informing the authorities about Amir's intentions, while Frank was suspected of the latter offense.

Third Way, NRP threaten to topple gov't over Jerusalem construction

By LIAT COLLINS

MKs from the Third Way and the National Religious Party have threatened to upset the work of the government to the point of toppling it, if Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu does not move on various construction projects in Jerusalem.

Emanuel Zissman (Third Way), one of the most outspoken MKs on the issue, has said the strengthening of Jerusalem is an essential part of his party's platform. "We see the construction of the Har Homa neighborhood as essential," he said.

The Yisrael Ba'aliya faction is calling on Netanyahu to immediately start construction in Har Homa and of Route No. 45 at the northern entrance to the city.

Netanyahu is scheduled to meet with coalition faction heads today to discuss the political struggle for Jerusalem. Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert is expected to attend the meeting.

Coalition and Likud faction chairman Michael Eitan, who arranged the meeting, noted that at a gathering of coalition MKs last week, there was heavy criticism of the government's policies on Jerusalem. That meeting, at the

initiative of the NRP, discussed building in the capital.

NRP faction chairman Hanan Porat presented a document, which was endorsed by all the non-haredi coalition parties, calling for housing construction in the Har Homa area and for homes to be built along the Ma'aleh Adumim-Jerusalem road. It also demands the construction of Road No. 45 entering Jerusalem from the north.

Yehuda Harel (Third Way) said his party could also "not be satisfied with less than this."

The Third Way is calling for 1,500 housing units and 3,000

hotel rooms to be built in the area between Ma'aleh Adumim and Jerusalem, as well as roads and the start of the Har Homa project.

Olmert told the MKs that former housing minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer and former finance minister Avraham Shohat (both Labor) recently met with Netanyahu and expressed support for the Har Homa project.

Yisrael Ba'aliya faction chairman Roman Bronfman said that construction in the Greater Jerusalem area enjoyed broad public support. He asked opposition MKs to support such work as a commitment to Jerusalem.

2 convicted in Crown Heights murder

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK - More than five years after rioting by blacks in Crown Heights left Yankel Rosenbaum dead, two black men were convicted yesterday on charges related to his murder.

On the fourth day of deliberation in federal court in Brooklyn, the jury found Lemrick Nelson Jr. and Charles Price guilty of violating the civil rights of Rosenbaum, who was knifed to death during the black pogrom in Crown Heights in 1991.

Nelson was acquitted of murder charges in state court more than four years ago, and the acquittal

sparked demands from the Jewish community for federal intervention. Two years later, Attorney General Janet Reno ordered a civil rights investigation that led to the charges.

In appeals for calm yesterday, officials and communal leaders said the verdict was about justice, not race. But they also cautioned that the Crown Heights case is not over.

"After five and a half years of pursuing justice with disappointment and frustration, finally a measure of justice had been achieved for the victims of the Crown Heights riots," said Michael Miller, executive director of the New York Jewish Community Relations Council.

Rosenbaum, a 29-year-old student from Australia, was attacked by a mob of young black men in the first of four days of rioting in August 1991. The rampage in the

Brooklyn neighborhood began after a black child was hit and killed by a hassidic motorist in the Lubavitcher rebbe's motorcade.

On the final day of deliberations, the jury reportedly asked to see videotape from that accident, although it is not clear what role

this played in the verdict. Prosecutor Valerie Caproni had charged that Nelson and Price were part of a murderous "vigilante gang" that was out to kill a Jew.

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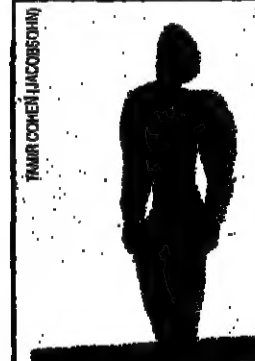
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Court: No way to block prisoner release

By EVELYN GORDON

There is no legal impediment to the government's plan to pardon 26 female Palestinian prisoners, the High Court of Justice said yesterday.

The court was ruling on a petition by Ora Klein, whose husband Zvi was killed in 1991 by a terrorist gang commanded by one of the women due to be released, and the Terror Victims Association.

The petition, filed by attorney Naftali Werzberger, argued that the release essentially constituted a general amnesty rather than individual pardons, and therefore required Knesset legislation rather than merely the signature of

President Ezer Weizman.

It also argued that granting pardons to murderers just because they are women, while men charged with identical crimes remain in prison, is unreasonable and discriminatory. Finally, it said, a wholesale release of murderers for political purposes constitutes moral bankruptcy, undermines the rule of law and will encourage other criminals by showing that there is nothing to fear for those with the right political connections.

In response, government attorney Yehuda Schaeffer argued that the release was part of a binding international agreement signed between the government and the PLO, and as such was not justiciable.

During the hearing, the petitioners also raised the issue of Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi's statement that he will not approve the release of three of the women: one who was convicted of murder and two convicted of attempted murder. Schaeffer said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu would approve the pardons for these three women in Hanegbi's place, and the petitioners charged that this was illegal.

Justices Aharon Barak, Mishael Cheshin and Yitzhak Zamir rejected all these arguments, however.

"It goes without saying that the court should not be examining this decision, or any other government decision, from a political or moral standpoint, but only from

a legal standpoint," they wrote — and legally, they said, the petitioners were wrong.

First, they said, it is not true that the releases constitute a general amnesty rather than individual pardons, because even if the government decided to grant the pardons on a collective basis, the president must still examine each one on an individual basis, and has the authority to reject some requests while approving others.

The last time the government authorized a large-scale release of Palestinian prisoners, in 1995, Weizman did in fact refuse to sign two of the pardons, though he changed his mind and authorized them a year later.

Furthermore, the justices said, Weizman is entitled to take Israel's

agreements with the PLO into account when making his decisions.

Finally, they said, Netanyahu does have the right to sign off on the pardons instead of Hanegbi. The Basic Law: The President states that any decision by the president must be countersigned by "the prime minister or another minister designated by the cabinet," so in fact, Netanyahu has more authority in this respect than Hanegbi, they said.

One issue not dealt with in the petition is the impact of Hanegbi's refusal to recommend the pardon of three of the women. Weizman is not bound by Hanegbi's recommendation, but he cannot consider any pardon request until it has been passed on by the justice minis-

ter with some sort of recommendation. However, he cannot refuse to pass on the requests indefinitely.

After the hearing, Klein and TVA head Meir Indor said they would continue trying to lobby ministers and MKs against the release.

"As someone who worked hard to get the prime minister elected... I am very, very disappointed, to say the least," Indor said. "And if he weren't a friend, I would use much stronger language."

Klein said the release would be easier to accept if the Palestinian Authority were at least keeping its side of the bargain and extraditing wanted terrorists to Israel. Under the circumstances, however, there is no justification for it, she said.

MKs form opposition to zone pullout

By LIAT COLLINS

More than a dozen MKs from coalition and opposition parties who oppose the Kochav Yair circle's push for a pullback from Lebanon met in the Knesset yesterday.

The meeting, initiated by MK Naomi Blumenthal (Likud), aimed to counter the talks held at the Kochav Yair home of MK Gideon Ezra (Likud) on Saturday night, when five MKs from the left, right and center discussed an IDF withdrawal from the security zone.

Ezra turned up at Blumenthal's meeting to reject the criticism raised against his group, which he said had not discussed unilateral withdrawal. His appearance at yesterday's meeting was met by heckles and jibes.

Meanwhile, Nissim Dahan (Shas) has reportedly joined Ezra's group.

At the opening of the discussion yesterday, Blumenthal said an accident like the helicopter disaster last week could have happened anywhere and the timing of the discussion on the IDF presence in Lebanon was not right "before the seven days of mourning for the disaster victims are over."

"We on us for such talk of unilateral withdrawal," said Dalia Itzik (Labor). "What have they [the Kochav Yair group] done? It's as if they told the soldiers serving there, you are redundant. They should keep their mouths shut. It's shockingly irresponsible and the most unfortunate timing. Until a comprehensive solution is found for Lebanon, there is no reason to call for a unilateral pullback. They

have told us what not to do without saying what we should do. I'm calling on the prime minister not to give in to pressure and demands by MKs shooting from the hip."

Shaul Yahalom (National Religious Party) accused the Kochav Yair group of playing soldiers off against residents of the North. "Soldiers are protecting not just the North but the residents of the center of the country," he said. "Not the whole country is Ramat Aviv Gimmel."

Pini Badash (Tsimet) said Ezra's approach was "naïve and defeatist." He said Hizbullah would not stop attacks at the border and there would be daily civilian casualties.

MK Rafi Elul (Labor) proposed a "Syria First" plan before any pullback from the security zone. It was at this point Ezra entered the

room and became a target for attack by the MKs present.

He fumed that Blumenthal had not told him of the meeting in advance. She countered that she had not known of the Kochav Yair gathering before it was revealed by the media.

Representatives of northern border communities were also present and complained that a withdrawal would endanger them. Aharon Ma'anuk, head of the Merom Hagall Council, said the issue was being turned into an argument between northerners and residents of the center of the country.

Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee Chairman Uzi Landau (Likud) described the Kochav Yair meeting as "a serious mistake."

At a Labor faction meeting,

opposition leader Shimon Peres said the discussion on withdrawal from Lebanon should be postponed until after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had met with US President Bill Clinton on the resumption of the talks with Syria.

MK Yossi Beilin (Labor), one of the MKs in Eitan's group, said his proposal for an IDF withdrawal is based on the deployment of US and European forces there instead. Beilin, a candidate for his party's leadership, said it is in the national interest to "re-think" the Lebanon policy.

MK Ehud Barak (Labor), a former chief of general staff and another candidate for the party leadership, said a unilateral withdrawal would be "irresponsible" and "would amount to abandoning the North."

Hizbullah official pledges end to violence after IDF pullback

By DAVID MAKOVSKY

A senior member of Hizbullah pledged recently that if Israel withdraws from Lebanon, violence against Israel would stop and the Lebanese Army would be permitted to deploy in the southern part of the country.

In an interview in Beirut a couple of weeks ago with Christian Science Monitor Radio, a Hizbullah member of the Lebanese parliament, Mohammed Raad, was asked how Hizbullah would react in the event of an Israeli pullout.

"The resistance has many forms," Raad said.

"It's not limited to the military wing. Hizbullah's military resistance against the Israelis was the result of the Israeli invasion, and occupation of Lebanon. If the Israelis withdraw from south Lebanon, this resistance will only continue on an intellectual and cultural level."

"At that point, the Lebanese Army would extend its control to the south of the country, and we would once more become Lebanese civilians like anyone else," he continued. "The Lebanese government would take over in the south on the administrative, military and security levels."

Forces in zone remain on high alert

By DAVID RUDGE

IDF and South Lebanese Army troops remain on full alert in the security zone following Sunday's fighting in which seven Nahal Brigade soldiers were wounded in a clash with Hizbullah gunmen.

SLA troops on operational duties in the Jezzine enclave, north of the zone, yesterday discovered and destroyed a roadside bomb.

Elsewhere the region was quiet, although Hizbullah, which is this month marking the fifth anniversary of the killing of its former leader Sheikh Abbas Musawi in an IAF helicopter attack, is expected to try to escalate its activities in the coming days.

As in previous years, as a goodwill gesture for Id al-Fitr, which marks the end of the month-long Ramadan fast, SLA commander Gen. Antoine Lahad, yesterday

announced the release of seven prisoners from the El-Khiyam jail.

Those to be released were detained on suspicion of collaborating with Hizbullah and other hostile organizations. They are expected to be handed over to officials of the Lebanese Red Cross and taken to their homes.

Meanwhile, Iran has reportedly instructed Hizbullah to establish a new department to be known as the Palestinian office, appar-

ently to organize and coordinate activities against Israel. Details were revealed in the weekly *Al Watan al-Arabi*, which reported that the department would be in direct contact with Iran.

Observers noted that this would indicate plans by Hizbullah to continue the fight against Israel using Palestinian rejectionist organizations as proxies in the event of a peace accord between Israel, Syria, and Lebanon.

High Court refuses to delay Rubinstein from taking office

By EVELYN GORDON

The High Court of Justice yesterday refused to issue an interim injunction against Elyakim Rubinstein's entry into office as attorney-general, thereby removing any barrier to his taking up his duties tomorrow.

The injunction had been requested by the Movement for Quality Government in Israel, which argued that Rubinstein should not be allowed to take office without first taking a polygraph test.

Alternately, the petition said, he should be prevented from taking office until the commission set up by the government to study the issue of whether these tests should be required of any civil servant has completed its work. This com-

mission is expected to submit its recommendations in another two months.

"There is nothing in the petition to cast doubt on the legality of the appointment," wrote Justice Ya'acov Kedmi in his decision.

But Kedmi strongly implied that the government commission should not start work until after the court has heard the petition. The hearing will take place no later than next Thursday.

In its petition, the movement said the whole issue of whether lie-detector tests should be necessary for senior civil servants is an important constitutional question, worthy of serious discussion. However, unless and until the public commission decides otherwise, the current rules require a poly-

graph test. Exempting Rubinstein from this requirement would violate the principle of equality before the law, the petition said.

The petition also challenged Rubinstein's presence on the commission looking into the issue of whether polygraph tests should be mandatory for senior civil servants. Because of Rubinstein's personal interest in the outcome of the commission's deliberations, it said, his presence constitutes a clear conflict of interest. Rubinstein has made it clear that he considers the polygraph tests illegal. Since as attorney-general Rubinstein essentially has veto power over the commission's conclusions, the petition said, the commission's recommendations are a foregone conclusion.

Sweden seeking cooperation against banned weapons

By STEVE RODAN

Israel and Sweden are exploring cooperation in the protection of civilians against an unconventional weapons.

Swedish Deputy Defense Minister Lars Rekke ended a two-day visit last night, saying his country wants to learn from Israel's experience in protecting its civilians from an attack by either chemical or other non-conventional weapons.

Rekke yesterday visited the IDF Home Front Command in Ramle, as well as the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv. Earlier, he visited Israel Aircraft Industries and examined its unmanned air reconnaissance division.

"You have experiences that we don't have in the protection of civilians," Rekke told The

Jerusalem Post. "We have many similarities in defense."

Currently Israel sells Sweden tank shells and a radar to clear minefields, a system being used by the Swedish army in peace-keeping operations in Bosnia.

Rekke said that Sweden still fears Russia, despite the collapse of communism.

"We regard the risk of a hostile attack on Sweden as being currently nil," he said. "But you don't know what will happen in Russia. This is the reason we need a strong armed forces in the future."

Rekke said that Israel and Sweden will exchange classified information on unconventional weapons technology. He said, however, there are no plans for high-level visits by defense officials of either country over the next year.

1 killed, over 100 injured on roads

One person was killed and some 110 were injured in traffic accidents around the country yesterday. A five-year-old girl hit by a car in Bnei Brak on Saturday night also died yesterday.

Shai Gottlieb, 22, of Ra'anana, was killed when the truck he was driving lost its brakes on a steep hill near Ma'aleh Ephraim and overturned. His father, who was riding in the truck, suffered light injuries.

Meanwhile, five-year-old Hagit Giat, who was hit by a car while crossing the street with four other girls and a woman on Saturday night in Bnei Brak, died yesterday at Sheba Hospital in Tel Hashomer.

Six people were lightly injured in Jerusalem when a police car in the prime minister's convoy, which was driving through a red light, hit another car. (Itim)

Most crime up in '96

There was an increase in nearly all types of crime in 1996, mainly due to population growth, according to the annual summary of police activities released yesterday.

Some 317,000 criminal investigations were launched in 1996, an increase of 18,000 over 1995, the report said. Seventy percent of the cases related to property crimes, 29% were drug related, and 1.5% were serious crimes.

A total of 123 people were murdered last year, up 14% over 1995, and there was an attempted murder every 86 hours. There were 135 rapes reported last year, the same number as in 1995.

A car was stolen every 14 seconds in 1996. There was an increase in the number of armed robberies, 587, compared with 548 in 1995.

There was a marked increase in drug dealing in 1996, though only

10% of the drugs were confiscated.

The number of nationalist crimes dropped, although police would not reveal the figures.

Police Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz attributed the drop to the progress in the peace process, which reduced motivation for such crimes, and cooperation with the Palestinian Police, who helped foil dozens of attacks.

Asked about a new law that will cut the time a person can be held in a police lockup before being brought before a judge from 48 hours to 24 hours, Hefetz said: "We are moving toward this with certain reservations."

Hefetz said he thought this would make things easier for criminals and tougher for investigators. However, the new law will markedly decrease the number of those held in lockups around the country. (Itim)

Most US Jews favor Hebron accord, peace process

By DAVID MAKOVSKY

Almost two-thirds of American Jews either strongly or somewhat support the recent Hebron accord, and almost 80 percent believe the Middle East peace process must be a top or very priority for the second-term Clinton administration.

The poll, commissioned by the New York-based pro-Labor Israel Policy Forum and conducted by Penn and Schoen Survey last week, canvassed 700 American Jews and has a 3.7% margin of error.

Coming on the eve of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's visit to the US this week, the poll found that 94% of American Jews believe the US should take an active role in promoting a lasting

peace in the Middle East.

There is some division in the American Jewish community on the question of whether the US should be out in front of Israel on the peace process. About 41% of the respondents said the US should "wait and see" what Israel and its government do before acting. Another 24% said the US should back Israel unconditionally, while 30% said the "US should actively encourage Israel and its government during the peace process."

In terms of personal popularity, about 68% of American Jews have either a very or somewhat favorable view of Netanyahu. In comparison, 38% of American Jews have a very or somewhat favorable view of Palestinian Authority leader Yasser Arafat.

A TOWNHOUSE IN JERUSALEM

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May their memories be for a blessing, and may Israel know no more sorrow.

The Chairman and Members of the Board of Directors of ELAH — Association for Psycho-Social Support for Dutch Holocaust Survivors — and their families
mourn the tragic death of
MANFRED KLAFTER
president of Amcha
and express condolences to the Klafter families and to our friends and colleagues at Amcha.

سید الیاس

PA agrees to transfer burned boy to Hadassah

By JUDY SIEGEL

The Palestinian Authority has finally agreed to transfer to Hadassah-University Hospital's pediatric intensive care unit a four-and-a-half-year-old Bethlehem boy in critical condition, with burns suffered in an accident over a week ago.

Before the boy's plight was publicized, the PA had wanted to move him to a Jordanian hospital, apparently for political and financial reasons, but doctors at Jerusalem's Hospital said such a trip could endanger his life.

The boy, Amir Buja, was standing next to his 14-year-old cousin, who was preparing a bonfire to mark the end of the Ramadan fast. The cousin poured paint thinner over the wood, and it exploded in Buja's face, causing severe burns. He was rushed in critical condition to Bethlehem Hospital, which transferred him to Mokassed, even though it doesn't have a burns unit.

Prof. Shlomo Mor-Yosef, director of Hadassah-University

Hospital in Ein Kerem, agreed to find place for him in the pediatric intensive care unit of its new Mother-and-Child Center and reduce the diagnostic-related group charge set by the Health Ministry for burns cases from NIS 100,000 to NIS 60,000.

MK Taleb a-Sanaa appealed to Health Minister Yehoshua Matza, who used the incident to illustrate the problem of the PA's "takeovers" of Mokassed and four other eastern Jerusalem hospitals in recent months. Yesterday, the PA told an intermediary that it would pay NIS 60,000 for the boy's treatment and Hadassah said it would find a bed for him today or tomorrow.

Mor-Yosef noted that referrals to Hadassah by the Palestinian Authority of patients living in the territories dropped last month by 50%, compared to the same month a year ago.

Dr. Yitzhak Sever, director of the Health Ministry's general medical division and liaison on health services with the Palestinian Authority, said last night that it was illegal for

the PA to have replaced Mokassed's director, Dr. Amin Tanji, with Dr. Rustum Namari.

"By law, hospital directors must be approved by the ministry. However, we will go and investigate; if Dr. Namari is a qualified medical administrator, and if no major changes have been made at Mokassed and the department heads remain the same, we are likely to grant approval," Sever said.

"But if not, we can tell the four public health funds that insure eastern Jerusalem Arab residents not to cover treatment costs at Mokassed and not to refer patients there and to the four other hospitals that have been taken over by the PA [Augusta Victoria, the Red Crescent Hospital, and two others in Kalandia and Beit Hanina]."

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's senior adviser David Bar-Ilan said that the issue was raised in the meeting Sunday night with PA Chairman Yasser Arafat, but only as an example of the PA's violation of the Oslo agreements and not in detail. Bar-Ilan said the Palestinians promised "to look into it."

Knesset considering pensions for Prisoners of Zion

By BAT SHEVA TSUR

An anomalous situation arose yesterday at a meeting of the coalition faction, which gathered at the Knesset to discuss a bill that would grant pension rights to Prisoners of Zion.

All the faction members present, with the exception of MK Michael Kleiner (Likud), said they would support transferring the bill to the present Knesset.

The draft was presented to the previous Knesset by MK Emanuel Zissman, who was then chairman of the Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee and a Labor MK. It was due to come up again in the Knesset yesterday evening.

The factions' decision came after the government secretary issued a statement to the effect that the government was opposed to the bill, on the grounds it would cause havoc with the budget.

Yisrael Ba'aliya ministers Nathan Sharansky, and Yuli Edelstein chided the government for not holding a debate on the subject. They said they would go against the cabinet stance and would support the bill. The Yisrael Ba'aliya faction took credit for the decision by the other factions to oppose the ministerial position.



Spanish visitor leaves early

Spanish Interior Minister Jaime Mayor Oreja (left), joined by his host, Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani, inspects the Western Wall yesterday while waiting for his pilots to be located so they could fly him back to Spain. Mayor Oreja cut short his visit here after a car bomb exploded in Granada, killing one person and wounding seven. The blast is believed to have been carried out by Basque separatists. (Isaac Harari)

NEWS

in brief

Albanian culture minister here

Albanian Culture Minister Teodor Laco, here on a four-day visit, will hold talks with members of the cultural community in an effort to increase the cultural dialogue between the two countries, the Education Ministry spokesman said. He met with Education and Culture Minister Zevulun Hammer last night to discuss ways of advancing educational and cultural ties.

Albania gave safe haven to some 1,800 Jews who fled neighboring countries during the Nazi era. About 90% of Albania's 300,000 Jews survived the Holocaust. Some 50 Albanians have been designated as Righteous Among the Nations. *Batsheva Tsur*

'Bibi is selling out Eilat'

Eilat Mayor Gabi Kadosh (Likud) has begun an all-out campaign against Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu with the slogan, "Bibi is selling out Eilat." According to Kadosh, the Jordanians are pressing Israel to agree that all flights to Eilat, domestic as well as international, should land at the joint airport to be established on the border. According to the agreement, the airfield itself is to be in Jordan, with two terminals, one in Israel and one in Jordan. Kadosh, as well as the Eilat Hotel Association and Arkia, are insisting that domestic flights should continue to land at the present airport in Eilat. *Haim Shapiro*

Air traffic controllers to get counseling

Air traffic controllers who have monitored an air accident or a near-miss will now receive counselling to relieve tensions and allow them to return to work at full strength.

"A controller who is involved in an incident suffers terrible tension and emotional pressures, and it is useful to give counselling to relieve the accompanying feelings," explained Avi Hacohen, chairman of the Air Traffic Controllers Association, which is sponsoring the service. Hacohen cited foreign studies showing that 86 percent of controllers involved in an air accident suffered emotional and physical difficulties following the incident. *Irit*

Haifa Chemicals talks resume

Negotiations between management and workers at Haifa Chemicals resumed yesterday. During a meeting over the weekend in New York, Haifa Chemicals chairman Arye Genger instructed management to make every effort to bring about the reopening of the plant as soon as possible. Meanwhile, management appealed to the National Labor Court against the Haifa Labor Court's decision to prohibit the firing of 124 tenured workers. *Irit*

'Techies' and science teachers needed in coming years

By JUDY SIEGEL

Manpower in high-tech fields like computers, robotics and electronics will be much in demand in the coming years, as will professionals in nursing, gerontology and marketing.

The Hadassah Career Counseling Institute in Jerusalem issued its annual prediction of professions that will be in demand. In addition to the above, teachers in

the exact sciences — physics, maths and chemistry — will be needed.

However, according to Prof. Yitzhak Garry, head of the institute, interest among high school pupils in the exact sciences is on the decline, portending a shortage of scientists unless this changes.

The popularity of law and business administration courses among those headed for university will undoubtedly cause an oversupply in these areas, said Garry.

Catering hall withholds deposit from crash victim

By URIEL FREEMAN

When David Hefetz's nephew, Lt. Alon Babayan, was killed in last Tuesday night's helicopter crash, Hefetz decided that it would be imprudent to go forth with the planned February 25 celebration of his son Moshe's bar mitzva at the Abuza Hall in the Romema neighborhood of Jerusalem.

When he conveyed his intention to the hall's manager, Rami Gazit, Hefetz hoped to get back all of the \$6,000 cancellation cost.

While extending condolences to the Hefetz family and to all the bereaved families, Gazit said that in view of the tragic circumstances, he would reduce the \$6,000 to \$2,000, which would be

donated to a fund to build a memorial for the crash victims.

Gazit insisted that because of the "bush language" with which Hefetz demanded the full refund, he was unwilling to forgo the entire \$6,000.

"There is loss here on both sides," he explained. "I understand that their loss is bigger [than mine], but the [helicopter crash] did not bring them any financial loss. We are trying to be understanding beyond the requirements of the law."

He pointed out that the \$6,000 contract was legally binding regardless of extraneous circumstances.

Indicating that he would be willing to postpone the event free of charge, Gazit maintained that the Hefetz family had not told him that they are considering this option.

By BAT SHEVA TSUR

Education Ministry Director-General Ben-Zion Dell yesterday called to his office a school principal and a teacher whose behavior after last week's helicopter disaster was deemed unfitting.

Yesterday evening, the senior staff at the ministry were discussing what to do about the two educators after they had explained their points of view.

Parents and pupils said Atara Sinkovitz, an English teacher at the state (secular) junior high school in Mevasseret Zion, made remarks to the effect that the soldiers were killed because they failed to uphold Jewish values.

"It is clear that she slipped up," her principal, Aviva Berger, said yesterday. "I don't know exactly what her remarks were because there are different versions. We are a liberal school and we understand that she made a mistake."

Berger said Sinkovitz had been teaching English at the school for two years "and there were never problems before ... Apparently the affair was leaked by one of the parents and it has been blown up out of proportion. It was a mistake and it has to be dealt with."

The second educator called to Dell was Anwar Daoud, the principal of the school at the mixed Jewish-Arab village of Neveh Shalom. Daoud published an obituary in a local paper for Tom Kita'in, the village's first soldier, who was killed in the crash.

Daoud was called to explain a sentence in the obituary in which he described Kita'in as "the only Jewish soldier I agreed to take in my car when he was in uniform."

Jewish residents of the village reacted angrily to the actions of the ministry.

"This is a cynical witch-hunt," said Michal Zak. "It is [Education Minister Zevulun] Hammer who has to apologize, not Daoud. Neveh Shalom became part of the national consensus for a short time, and now it's all over. It hurts."

Zak said that Kita'in's grandmother had sent a protest to Hammer. "The family is furious — not at Daoud's remarks but at the ministry's behavior ... The shiva is not over and it did not wait to hear the version of Tom's father, Boaz, who is co-principal with Daoud."

Zak said the ministry had failed to under-

stand that "there are two peoples with different attitudes to the IDF here. They want the Arabs to feel like the Jews. It is absurd to expect them to venerate the IDF."

Zak said that it is "obvious that Daoud was called to order to counteract the effect of the [Mevasseret] teacher's remarks." She said that Kita'in's uncle, an Israel Prize winner, is demanding that the ministry apologize to Daoud.

Neveh Shalom secretary Ahmed Hijazi said that Hammer and the National Religious Party have "a great deal to learn about tolerance from us ... Perhaps the remarks made by Daoud were not the most fortuitous in terms of place and time, but it is totally out of proportion to charge him, as they did, with racism."

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500 held during lethal Chinese Moslem riots

By JOHN LEICESTER

BEIJING (AP) — Chinese police fired warning shots over crowds of young Moslems who beat people to death and torched cars during pro-independence riots in far west China, a police official said yesterday.

The riots last week were the worst to hit Yining, in the restive Chinese province of Xinjiang, since the 1949 Communist takeover, said the official with the Yining city police.

He said four or five people, including Chinese and members of local ethnic groups, were killed and that others, including police officers, were injured.

Some of those killed were beaten to death, said the official, reached by telephone from Beijing. He refused to give his name.

Ming Pao, a Hong Kong daily, said more than 10 Chinese were killed and their bodies set on fire.

The police official said security forces arrested 400 to 500 people, some of whom were later released. Three cars were set on fire and

police fired shots into the air to calm the crowds. "It's been put down," he said.

He said the rioters were Uighurs, Xinjiang's Moslem majority, demanding independence for the region. Clashes are periodically reported in Xinjiang, where the Turkic-speaking Uighurs face an influx of ethnic Chinese.

"There was a protest... It was illegal," said an official with Xinjiang's provincial government, who gave his surname. Liu, "illegal protests are curbed," Liu, reached in Urumqi, Xinjiang's provincial capital, also said calm had been restored in Yining, near the Kazakhstan border, 500 km from Urumqi.

Liu said that because of the Chinese New Year holiday he had no more details.

Ming Pao quoted an unidentified Chinese man in Yining as saying 1,000 Moslems, mostly aged 17 and 18, beat up, killed and burned their victims before police quashed the violence.

Ismail Cengiz, the secretary general of a pro-independence

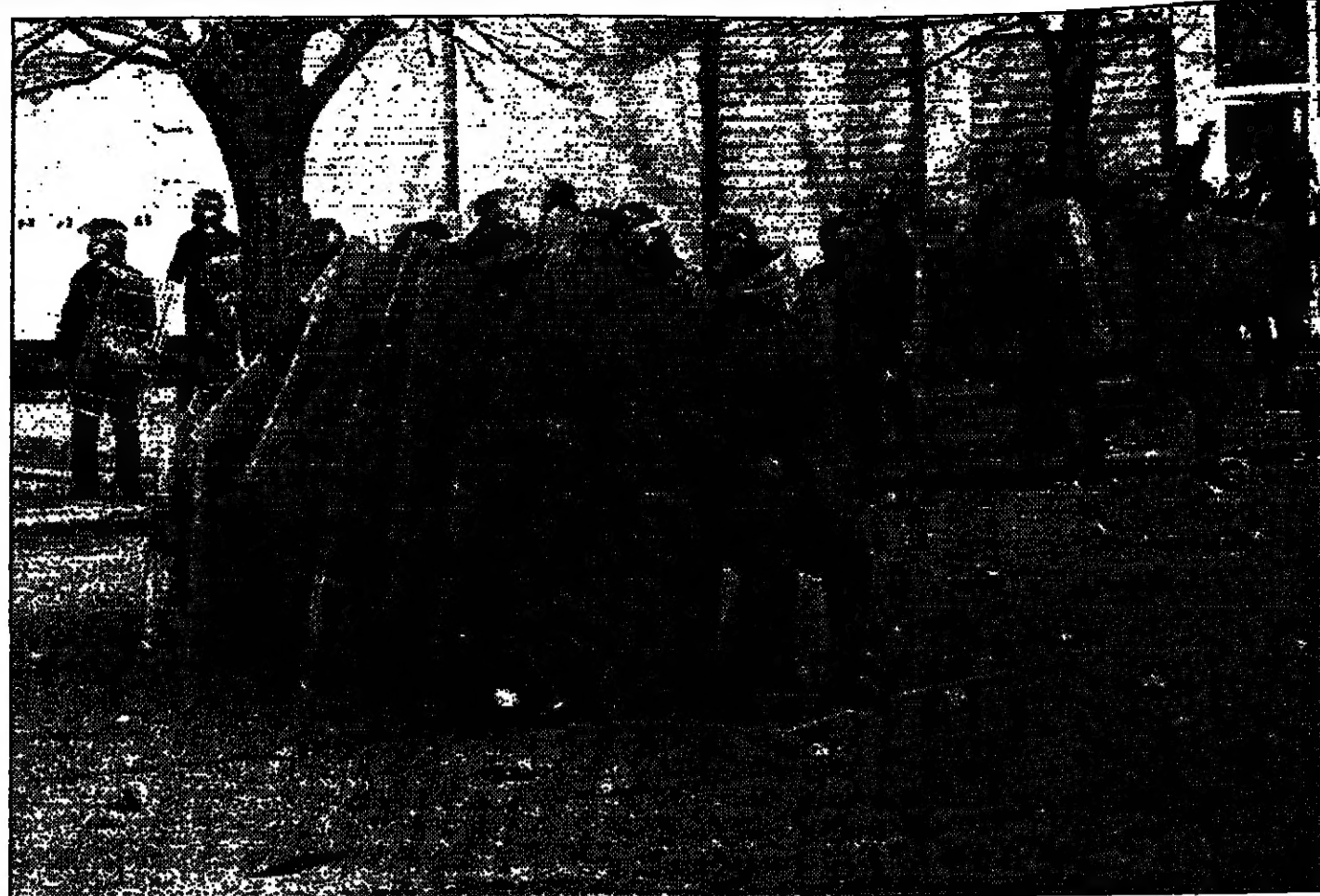
Uighur group based in Istanbul, Turkey, claimed that 200 Moslem rioters and about 100 Chinese soldiers were killed. The report could not be confirmed.

Modan Mukhlisi, a spokesman for the United National Revolution Front, a Uighur separatist group based in Kazakhstan, said that 30 Uighurs died in the riots. He said he did not further details.

Cengiz, a Uighur, said the riots started when Chinese security forces arrested a group of women reading prayers in a house in Yining on Feb. 4, a Moslem holy night. Rioters then marched on the police station, said Cengiz, of the East Turkestan Immigrants Association.

The Uighurs had their own Republic of East Turkestan from 1944 to 1949. Xinjiang is now one of five autonomous regions of China.

Covering one-sixth of China, Xinjiang has a population of 16.6 million, of whom 38 percent are ethnic Chinese, according to Chinese figures.



Three die in Albania rioting

Riot police in the Albanian port of Vlore huddle together yesterday to protect themselves from stone-throwing demonstrators, who were protesting the loss of their life savings in shady investment schemes. Three died in yesterday's riots and President Sali Berisha asked parliament to declare a state of emergency, following several weeks of such demonstrations. (Reuters)

Croats open fire on Moslems

From Post news agencies

SARAJEVO — Croats opened fire on Moslems visiting a cemetery in the Bosnian city of Mostar yesterday, wounding at least four people, a UN official said.

The shootings occurred after days of increased tensions in Mostar, the scene of bitter Croat-Moslem battles during Bosnia's civil war.

Although Moslems and Croats are allies in the Bosnian federation, the city is divided along ethnic lines and international monitors have been unable to reduce the hostility, which has included recent explosions and expulsions.

Moslems were visiting a cemetery when they were confronted by

Croats, UN spokesman Alexander Ivankovic said.

"The Croats started stoning them, and then opened fire with weapons," Ivankovic said.

He said at least four people were hurt and it was "very possible" that some people were killed.

Under the Dayton peace agreement, the Croat-Moslem federation controls 51 percent of Bosnia and Serbs control the other 49 percent.

Meanwhile, in Belgrade twenty thousand students massed in the center of the Serbian capital yesterday, keeping up pressure on the authoritarian President Slobodan Milosevic as parliament prepared to reinstate opposition election gains.

'Black widow' trial opens in Austria

KREMS, Austria (Reuters) — The trial of a woman suspected by police of a murder spree spanning more than a decade opened yesterday in Krems, 50 km west of Vienna.

Elfriede Blauensteiner, 66, dubbed the "black widow" by the media, is charged with poisoning pensioner Alois Pichler with fatal doses of medication. Police are still investigating three other deaths.

Blauensteiner arrived at the court wearing a beige suit and clutching a metal crucifix. "My hands are clean. I've nothing to hide," she told reporters, smiling.

Asked if she would plead guilty, she said: "I would never kill. I believe in my innocence." Police said Blauensteiner confessed to five murders but later withdrew the confession. Police suspect she killed to finance a gambling addiction.

"I confessed because the police questioned me for so long. I would have confessed to anything," she told journalists.

A bespectacled pensioner of matronly appearance, Blauensteiner told reporters she enjoyed nursing older men and that it was a coincidence some of those she nursed had died.

Judge killed, car bomb explodes in Spanish terrorism

From Post news agencies

MADRID — A Supreme Court justice was shot to death on a Madrid street yesterday amid a confrontation between the high court and Basque separatists. Hours earlier, a car bomb exploded in Granada, killing one man.

Two assailants approached Judge Rafael Martinez Empedrado outside his home in Madrid at 2:30 p.m. and one shot him in the head, said a police spokesman, who according to government rules could not be identified.

Shortly after 7 a.m., a car bomb exploded in the southern Spanish city of Granada as an air force van went by, killing one man and wounding seven people. No one claimed responsibility for that attack, but suspicion immediately fell on the Basque separatist group ETA.

The assassination of Martinez comes as the Supreme Court is confronting ETA's political

wing, the Herri Batasuna coalition. The high court has summoned 25 members of Herri Batasuna's executive board for questioning on the coalition's use during last year's election campaign of an ETA videotape.

It was not immediately clear if Martinez's slaying was linked to the confrontation. Officials said Martinez belonged to a branch of the high court dealing mostly with labor and social issues, not summoning the Herri Batasuna leaders. "It's a terrible blow," Supreme Court Judge Luis Martinez Arieta said. "He was a real professional," Martinez was shot outside his apartment in an upscale neighborhood of Madrid, one block from Retiro Park. The assailants fled, leaving Martinez lying on the sidewalk.

"There was blood spilling from his head like water from a faucet," a witness said.

The man said he grabbed Martinez's wrist to feel for a pulse. Feeling none, he and other

passers-by pulled a tablecloth from a nearby restaurant table and covered the body.

An ambulance arrived within minutes, but Martinez was declared dead on arrival at a hospital a few blocks away.

In Granada, the car bomb heavily damaged an apartment building, wounding a 9-year-old boy and his 16-year-old sister who had been asleep inside. Firefighters evacuated 125 people from the building, whose facade was partially blown away.

Police said the bomb went off as the van carrying civilian and military staff to nearby Armilla air force base passed by.

Interior Ministry official Jose Torres Hurreado said ETA appeared to be behind the attack. ETA, an acronym for Basque Homeland and Liberty, has killed almost 800 people, many by car bombs, since it began fighting for independence for northern Spain's Basque regions in 1968.

O.J. ordered to pay \$25m in damages

By MICHAEL FLEEMAN

SANTA MONICA, California (AP) — A jury yesterday ordered O.J. Simpson to pay \$25 million as punishment for the slayings of his ex-wife and her friend, a final blow that could doom the fallen football great to a lifetime of debt.

The punitive judgment is on top of \$8.5 million in compensatory damages awarded last week when the jury found Simpson liable in the June 12, 1994, slaying deaths of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman. It was a dramatic turnaround from Simpson's acquittal on murder charges 16 months earlier.

It took the panel five hours over two days to arrive at the punishment amount, ignoring the portrayal of Simpson as heavily in debt and siding with a plaintiffs' lawyer who urged jurors to "send a message."

Ms. Simpson's estate, whose beneficiaries include her two children now living with Simpson, was allotted \$12.5 million of the award. Goldman's father, Fred, got another \$12.5 million, while mother Sharon Rufo did not ask for punitive damages. The long-divorced parents, however, got the \$8.5 million com-

pensatory award for the loss of their son's love and companionship.

The decision marked yet another milestone in the 2½-year legal saga that transfixed the United States and still exposes its racial divisions from the acquittal by a mostly black jury to the wrongful death verdict from a mostly white panel.

The civil trial — brought by the families of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ron Goldman — ended in a flurry of rhetoric and dueling depictions of Simpson's financial picture.

Simpson's lawyers said their client was worse than broke, arguing last week's verdict and compensatory award left him \$9.3 million in debt. They said that since his first trial ended, Simpson has been shunned by those who would employ him and banished from the sports card shows that were his bread and butter.

But plaintiffs contended Simpson is potentially worth at least \$15.7 million, based on the predicted \$3 million he stands to make every year for selling his name, likeness and trademark. The estimate is important because under California law creditors can garnish up to 25 percent of future wages.

ANC warns right-wingers after raid

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters) — A prominent South African right-winger was among 12 people arrested yesterday for breaking into an army base, prompting the black majority African National Congress to issue a stiff warning to pro-apartheid forces.

Police said white right-winger Willem Rattie and 11 people were

arrested at 3 a.m. inside the Pomfret military base, a restricted area, in North West region.

"The 12 suspects, including a woman and a 16-year-old boy, were arrested inside the Pomfret military base and are being held on charges of attempted sabotage and housebreaking. We are investigating," said police inspector Rina Marthyssen.

pants that police said he was wearing the night Rosenbaum was stabbed. The pants were too big for Nelson, leading to recitation of the rhyme: "If the pants don't fit, you must acquit."

Price, 43, and Nelson, 21, face sentences of up to life in prison. Meanwhile, a civil suit against the city is pending, filed by Rosenbaum's family and members of the Crown Heights Jewish community.

Yesterday, Giuliani also called for calm, saying: "Justice has been rendered. All of us must respect the decision of the jury whether we agree with it, as I do, or disagree."

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PRINCIPLES

Continued from Page 1

bish," an official in the Prime Minister's Office said.

Given the large number of ministers, aides say it is unlikely that Netanyahu will hold serious discussions on this topic with the entire cabinet, but will consistently favor more intimate gatherings at which he believes he can express himself more candidly.

At the smaller gathering, the extent of the March 7 pullback was discussed, as was the search for a formula to renew talks with Syria.

Clinton has said that he is waiting for Netanyahu's proposed formula for renewing talks with Damascus. But US officials are skeptical the talks will be convened in the next few months, since Syria is insisting that Israel agree to a full Golan withdrawal as a precondition for their resumption.

Syria is insisting that Israel resume the talks where "they left off," which means full Golan withdrawal, to which it claims

Yitzhak Rabin agreed, even though there was nothing signed to this effect.

Senior officials suggest that Israel will agree "not to ignore where the talks left off," but will not commit to anything that could be interpreted as ceding the Golan.

Meanwhile, in a rare interview, Syrian Vice President Abdel Halim Khaddam said the assassination of Rabin and Shimon Peres's call for early elections last year was the reason that no peace agreement was reached.

In an interview with United Press International, Khaddam insisted that "Rabin's killing and Shimon Peres's call for early elections were the principal reasons that obstructed achieving an accord between Syria and Israel. Otherwise, they would have continued concluding the remaining points."

When asked why he had not signed a peace treaty with Israel once Rabin did agree to a full pullout, Khaddam replied: "We needed to complete all other peace elements in order to be able to sign a complete accord."

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.

Children mourn

In the aftermath of the tragic helicopter collision over Moshav She'ar Yashuv one week ago, children throughout the country put their feelings on paper in pictures and poems. Through their creative efforts, they have eulogized the 73 IDF soldiers who lost their lives.

Asaf

Scores of readers submitted children's poems to 'The Jerusalem Post.' Some were written in school, others were written at home. All share the attempt to find meaning in the country's worst-ever air disaster. Space limitations prevent us from publishing all of the poems submitted, but we present here a selection of the writings we received from our young readers.

Untitled

When all the people were in their warm houses,
When the rain was outside, washing the whole country
When the birds were singing a song, a sad song,
Sun break my heart, say you are alive
Come back and bring your smile again.
I need you beside me to tell me that you are strong and
fine I will cry so many nights.
My tears will become the ice of my heart.
When all the people will play I will remember how we
played that you were the winner.
I'm very sorry that I didn't.

Untitled

Tuesday, the 4th of February, 73 dead, one of them a friend.
Two choppers crashed in the sky, 73 dead, will there
ever be an end?
Once I heard I couldn't stop crying, they did nothing
wrong, they shouldn't be dead.
But Israel will keep on trying, even though 73 men are
dead, one of them my friend.
Dedicated to Dafna and Yuval. Hang in there.

Adi Neumann, 13,
Kfar Sava

Untitled

I don't know why I don't
feel sad, why I can't feel
bad.
Why can't I shed at least
one tear, when crying is all
around here.
Maybe 'cause I don't
know them at all, but I just
wonder what made them
fall.
When I think about this I
want to cry, but my tears
don't fall, believe me I
try.
Soon it will be forgotten
all, but not for the parents
waiting for that phone
call.

Irit Basford, 10,
Jerusalem

Poem of mourning

73
No life, no breath
If we can just make a wish
Let them come back to
you and me.
Crying tears that will
always be
There's nothing to do,
not one thing.
Except keep them in our
hearts.

Shani Amar, 10,
Har Adar

Helicopter crash

73 soldiers died when
they went to fight the
Hizbullah in South
Lebanon.

Their two helicopters
crashed when they went to
fight for peace.

I feel SAD and MAD
that they died in the name
of PEACE! 73 DEAD
SOLDIERS - Not 10, not
30, not even 60.

73 soldiers that died to
protect me!!!

Yoni Zimmer, 12,
Haifa

Untitled

They say he exists
They say he took them
To keep him company
But I think, I know
He is only in their minds
I know it because they're
dead

I know it because no one
Not even God
Can take seventy-three
sons

Away.
So there is faith
There is destiny
But there is no GOD
God wouldn't have taken
them

And put them closer to him
To hear them scream

Maya Shekrel, 16,
Yehud

National Mourning

I am so sad and in my head I am also mad.
It is so depressing that I am sitting and not moving.
The world is so sad because of what happened and at
night I dream about the disaster often.
I saw on TV the two helicopters that crashed and will
never come back!

Liat Serok, 8,
Har Adar

Untitled

Soldiers
Strong and Brave
Guarding, Fighting, Shooting
Sometimes our soldiers die protecting our country
Good bye!

Grade 6 English class, Mercat Mada V'Daat
Shlomi

Untitled

Why did this thing hap-
pen to us?
What did we do that on
Tuesday 73 died?
Are we thinking wrong?
Are we divided?
But not one of the 73
deserved this.
I wish we could bring
back time.

Yair Shalmoni, 13,
Kfar Sava

Untitled

I wish that this would not
have happened
I wish that they weren't
in the helicopters
I wish we weren't cry-
ing
I wish that the number 73
wouldn't come up every
time we talk
And I wish it would end

Hila Erez, 13,
Kfar Sava

The helicopter disaster

When I hear that - I want
to cry; I can't believe that.
The poor families of the
dead soldiers are sad, are
lonely.
Everybody is crying
Everybody is sad.
Sad music on the radio.
Sadness everywhere.

Anton Gershstein, 12,
Or Akiva

Above, a picture of the helicopter collision by second-grader Ronit Alter of Ra'anana. 'I'm sorry that this happened,' she wrote. 'Don't worry, you are not the only ones who are sad, but the whole country is sad.'

The shofar is still blowing

A shofar blows loud and still, while 73 new graves
stand cold and gray on an Israeli hill.

Oh, Israel why...why! Why should these innocent men
die? The blood and tears that are shed,

Oh, the expressions that are never expressed, the words
that can never be said.

These graves will stand forever, how still they lie,
while I and my people learn to say good-bye.

Good-bye to life, good-bye to the dead, good-bye to
comfort's golden thread.

Oh, G-d, bring back the comfort, the joy.
Don't let this tragedy destroy!

Oh, you are THE ONE G-d, in you we trust, And we know
your plan is just...

The shofar is still blowing loud and still,
But we now know it's for G-d's will.

Laura Iatesta, 11,
Jerusalem

To Die...

To die... so young to die...no, no, not I.
I love the warm sunny skies,
Light, songs, shining eyes.
I want no war, no battle cry - no, no...not I.
But if it must be that I live today
With blood and death on every hand,
Praised be He for the grace,
I'll say to live, if I should die this day...
Upon your soil, my home, my land.

Atara Polsky, 12
Safed

Candle

they were only children
they grew up 73 of them
they will never come back
each person is now a candle

73 candles
the only warmth and feeling their families will feel is
the warmth of the candle
they won't see the future and it's all because of the light
the light we saw
the light they will never see 73 people
73 candles each person is a candle

Dana Barak, 14,
Kfar Sava

Untitled

They were like flowers each and every one of them was
like a full world.

They were young and beautiful, they were but not any-
more.

Nidar Azizian, 15,
Be'er Tuvia

My Son

My son.
Do you remember, as a child, how much you loved roses?
Every spring you would come into the house, Your arms
full of flowers. You would run into the kitchen, give me a
kiss and arrange them in a pretty vase on the table.

My son.
When you got older and became a teenager, you'd still
remember every spring to bring me roses. You never forgot.

My son.
At nineteen you still brought me roses. But now a
young woman got them too.

My son.
How your face would shine when you brought the
flowers in! Your eyes were full of love, and your cheeks
full of color - just like the roses. You'd laugh when you
gave me the kiss.

My son.
Now your smile and face will shine no more.
Now it is I who brings the roses. To you.

My son.
Are you making the angels laugh in heaven? Do they
have the privilege of seeing you smile? Make them
happy, my son.
Like you made me happy.
Every spring.

Elisheva Harow, 13,
Efrat

Untitled

When you left, you promised me to come back, you
gave me a kiss and I couldn't tell that it was going to be
the last one.

After a day somebody called and mother started to
cry, she explained to me that you won't be coming
home anymore. And I just couldn't understand, how
could you do a thing like that, promise to come and just
forget?

Then, they were crying next to your grave and every-
body left you something: letters, flowers, candles. I left
you something too, a place in my heart, just for you and
your friends who have gone with you.

We will never forget how young and strong you were.
Yana Barkun, 15,
Jerusalem

Untitled

Sad, tiring songs
Sad songs
Because of the helicopter crash.
Tears flowed when we heard the news.
A special broadcast
No survivors, not even one.
The parents are already crying
And there are those that do not yet know.
Such a big flame, red and orange.
The parents cry for their beloved sons that will never
return.
This is the saddest day in the world.
This is the day we will never forget.
Know beloved soldiers
We will never forget you.

Netta Ram, 10,
Har Adar

Where are you?

Snow falls on the ground
And I feel terribly down
The wind blows and tears
flow.

Child, child,
Where are you?
Where will I find you?
It's past midnight
Where are you? Where?
I'm walking through our
house,

It is so quiet.
Passing by your room, I
realize that you will
Never sleep in your bed
Again.

From now on
You will sleep
Somewhere else.
Leah Devorah Breslow, 10,
Efrat

73

They endangered them-
selves for the good of the
country.

They left behind grieving
families - sisters and
brothers fathers and moth-
ers

All that remains - loneli-
ness and sorrow

Natalie Moreno, 11,
Michmoret

About...

We are sitting in class and talking
We are sitting talking
But not about English or anything else
But about life
About life that was wasted for nothing.
About their lives and cares
And it hurts to hear about friends
Friends who are left and not
We are sitting in class and talking
But we have nothing to say.

Boaz Eli, 15,
Yehud

Untitled

In life you have to be a Bear,
And you also have to care.
When bad things occur,
You have to be sure,
That you will get over it.
So I know how,
To get over it now.
And take that feeling away.
I close my eyes,
And always know that all the soldiers are in heaven.

Netali Ben-Zakai, 11,
Jerusalem

Brave and Strong

Brave and strong, they
go, they die.
They die for other peo-
ple, for us.

Now, we can just cry,
but, does it help?

Does it bring them back?
No, but we try, we are sad,
because they go,
they die for other people,
for us,

Brave and strong.
The sun shines, but they
are not.

We drink wine, but they
are not.

Oh, my G-d, Why?
Why do they bleed?
Why do they fall? Die?
So young, those boys.

Bat-El Swartz, 13,
Beersheba

Silence

Silence is never heard in
a country of wars.

Today we are not a coun-
try of wars,

We are a family that
has lost her sons, 73 of
them.

And silence is now
heard,
Silence that is so loud.

You can actually hear
your heart breaking.

The loud, painful
silence will continue,
FOREVER

Yael Ben-Artzy, 14,
Kfar Sava

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The Lebanon debate

The families of the 73 soldiers who died in last week's helicopter crash are still sitting shiva. But neither war nor politics are willing to give the mourners respite. On Sunday seven Israeli soldiers were wounded in fighting with Hizbullah guerrillas in Lebanon. And in Israel a debate is already raging on whether and how to get out of Lebanon.

Israeli soldiers in Lebanon, most of whom are 19 or 20 years old, are getting hit from both directions. First they face an intensification of attacks from Hizbullah, which senses that now is the time to take advantage of the heightened Israeli desire to leave Lebanon. Second, they must try to ignore one implication of the public debate in Israel, that they are "sitting ducks" whose sacrifice serves no real purpose.

The soldiers doing the difficult and dangerous work in Lebanon should know that until a better alternative is found their presence there is saving the lives of civilians in northern Israel. With all the talk of unilateral withdrawal, almost no one believes that Israel should leave without arranging some substitute to the presence of the IDF and the SLA.

"Unilateral" means without Syrian agreement; it is not the same as "unconditional." Everyone understands that a precipitous, unconditional withdrawal would mean Syrian-backed terrorists on Israel's border, the destruction of the SLA, and tens of thousands of Lebanese refugees fleeing retaliation for their cooperation with Israel.

The debate is not between maintaining the current situation and abandoning Lebanon unconditionally. The issue is whether an alternative to the current situation can be found that will allow Israel to withdraw without Syrian agreement and without compromising the security of the northern border.

The most discussed alternative at the moment is an international force, formed either by the French and the US, or by Arab states such as Egypt and Jordan, which would help the Lebanese government control the border and protect the population from retaliation. The question is whether any of these countries care enough about Lebanese sovereignty and facilitating Israel's withdrawal to put their own troops at risk and to weather the expected Syrian opposition to such a plan.

So far, neither the US nor France seem excited about the idea. The French ambassador to

Israel told this newspaper, "We don't believe that anything unilateral can be successful. I don't think a [unilateral] withdrawal would be accepted by Syria. I personally don't see 'Lebanon first' as a way out." A senior American official has also spoken out against unilateral withdrawal.

The interesting thing about the debate over Lebanon is that it does not divide along party lines. MKs Beilin, Kahalani, Ezra and Eitan seem most interested in pursuing "unilateral" alternatives, while MKs Sarid and Landau are outspokenly against such suggestions.

Some speculate that the debate on Lebanon really reflects one's perspective on the prospects for a deal with Syria. Those who believe that a comprehensive agreement with Syria is far off — or undesirable — are pushing hardest for a "Lebanon first" solution. Those who care most about an Israeli-Syrian agreement and believe it is achievable view partial solutions in Lebanon as a threat to such an accord.

But what the zealots for peace with Syria should realize is that a serious attempt to safeguard a "unilateral" Israeli withdrawal could actually be the spur that brings the Syrians to the table. If Syria sees that there is sufficient international will to facilitate an Israeli withdrawal, then Syria will fear that a key form of leverage against Israel is being eliminated. The prospect of losing its Lebanese card could impel Syria to show movement on talks with Israel in order to diffuse the pressure for a "Lebanon first" arrangement.

A serious push for an internationally guaranteed Israeli withdrawal would benefit the peace process: either it would remove the need for Israel's occupation of Lebanon — a major achievement in and of itself — or it would spur Syria's interest to negotiate with Israel in earnest.

Even if the international community could be convinced that a push for a Lebanese agreement could jumpstart — not jeopardize — a deal with Syria, arranging for an international force in Lebanon despite Syrian opposition is a tall order. As long as troops are stationed there, the issue of withdrawal should be debated in a way that does not minimize the daily contribution IDF soldiers make to our security, and the gratitude of the nation must be felt by those on the front line.

Held without charge

Today's visit to Israel by French Defense Minister Charles Millon is yet another sign of the significantly improved relations between Israel and France. With French Foreign Minister Heurtelet de Charette due to visit here next month amid increasing talk of a French role in the Middle East, particularly in Lebanon, these ties are expected to strengthen even further.

This does not mean there are no serious differences of opinion between the two countries. French President Jacques Chirac's recent visit here was unfortunately noteworthy for the controversies it caused, while French business ties with the tyrants in Iran and Iraq cast a dark shadow over the morality of French foreign policy in the region.

Over the years, too, France has not hesitated to call Israel to task on issues of human rights raised by the Palestinians. Now it is the turn of the Israeli authorities to draw the attention of their French guests to a blatant case of human rights violation by the French authorities of an Israeli citizen. Joel Herzog, a son of former president Chaim Herzog.

Joel Herzog resides in Geneva and works for the Noga group headed by Nessim Gaon, his father-in-law and world president of the Union of Sephardi Jews and vice-president of the

World Jewish Congress. The Noga group owns the Noga Hilton Hotel in Cannes. Allegations have been made against Cannes's mayor, accusing him of corruption in connection with the operation of casinos in the city's hotels, including the Noga Hilton.

The French authorities invited Herzog to France to testify in connection with this accusation. He went of his own volition to help the French authorities and was immediately incarcerated in a prison in Grasse, near Cannes, on December 2 last year. Since then he has been held in jail without bail, even though no charges have been filed against him. One cannot avoid thinking that the French authorities are cynically using Herzog as bait to entice his father-in-law to France for questioning in the affair.

This intolerable situation of holding a person without pressing charges is not unusual in France. In fact, French law allows a person to be held in jail for six months without charges. Nonetheless, there is no doubt that the French government would not sit idly by if Israel were to hold a French citizen — even if he wasn't the son of a former president — for months without legal action being instituted against him.

France prides itself as a country devoted to liberty. In the case of Herzog it is falling down in this duty.



Many-headed monster

Getting as large a part of our population as possible to shoulder a fair share of the defense burden is a problem that has been around and growing for quite some time.

Both our political leaders and those who command the armed forces have allowed a profoundly unfair situation to develop over time. What last week's horrible accident did was merely highlight it.

The fact that the 73 soldiers killed in the helicopter collision represented such a broad cross-section of Israel only served to underline the gnawing fact that some sectors do not serve at all, do not run the risks many of us have borne as a matter of routine since Israel's inception.

The tacit understanding has always existed among our pragmatic politicians that it simply wouldn't pay to rock the boat of the political status quo in order to solve the nasty but small problem of communal or sectoral refusal to serve in the IDF.

The only thing is, that small problem has grown into a many-headed monster.

Young haredim granted deferments (in reality lifelong exemptions) from service on the grounds that they devote their entire time to studying Torah account for about 6 percent of all those of draft age — a number that doubles if one adds girls from haredi families who are granted automatic exemptions.

Arabs similarly account for another 10 percent, if one includes the boys alone; 20 percent, if one adds Arab girls.

Close to 5 percent of those eligible obtain exemptions for real — and, in a growing number of cases, spurious — medical and mental health reasons; 12 percent are released from service for similar reasons after serving a few

YOSEF GOELL

troublesome months.

In total, exemptions of youngsters of draft age who could serve in the army if they wanted, but manage to wriggle their way out, amounts to well over 40 percent.

Any problem even approaching that magnitude cannot be ignored. If all those who do not want to serve are permitted to flit off, leaving the remaining 50-60 percent of 18-year-olds to give two to

When it was small and nasty it could be tolerated. But now it's huge and threatening and must be dealt with

three years of their lives — and sometimes their very lives — to defend the country, we will soon find that an increasing number of those who have been willing to serve will refuse to do so, on the principle of not being taken for a sucker.

TO ADD to this very worrying situation comes a new element: the emergence of both the haredim and the Arabs — the two communities constituting the bulk of those who have been exempt from army service — from their longstanding isolation vis-a-vis the rest of Israel, and their significantly deepening involvement in the political arena.

For these communities themselves, such emergence represents a desirable change; for the rest of us it provides all the more reason to demand that a sharing in real political power and in making

life-and-death national decisions be accompanied by the shouldering of a fair part of the burden deriving from these decisions.

The answer to the problem of dividing the burden of army service fairly can be found in a bill tabled in the Knesset this week by former Minister of Education Amnon Rubinstein.

Many details remain to be ironed out, but the bill's basic principle — that all Israeli youngsters who are physically and mentally fit devote several years of their lives to public service — is one that should no longer be shunted aside in the name of political expediency. The situation has grown too serious for that.

We need these tens of thousands of young men and women in our schools and hospitals, and in other forms of public service and projects.

We need many of them to guard our kindergartens and schools instead of paid private security services; and we need beefed-up civilian guard units to help fight the plague of car thefts from across the Palestinian Autonomy lines, something our understaffed police force just cannot cope with.

Should the bill become law and the wheels of this undertaking begin to turn, it won't just be "society" that benefits.

Our youngsters will find that the experience they build up while doing alternative service will contribute greatly to their own maturity and skills, preparing them for much more satisfying lives in the long run.

Above all, we will stop raising a generation of parasites who have learned only to take, not to give, and who have been undermining the motivation of the youngsters who have been defending our lives on the front lines.

The writer comments on current affairs.

Truth resides in tent city

It wasn't long underwear weather this winter in Jerusalem until the very end of January. However, more than long underwear was needed by that time for Aliza G. and 15 other homeless families still squatting in tent city outside the Prime Minister's Office.

But Aliza, a single mother of three young children, has ungratefully refused housing at a subsidized rent offered by Amidar, the government public housing corporation. This is merely because the housing on offer involves the family's relocation to Beit Shemesh, in the Jerusalem Corridor.

Relocation is one of those snappy words often found in want ads for people such as systems analysts or museum directors.

Lesser breeds such as secretaries, teachers, even social workers, also commute into Jerusalem or Tel Aviv by car from adjacent middle-class areas like Ramat Beit Shemesh.

For still lesser breeds like Aliza, who works in a Jerusalem old age home, relocating to Beit Shemesh just means that she will have to go on welfare.

Apart from the 45-minute bus ride to the city and back, there are no sisters or mother on hand in Beit Shemesh to babysit when Aliza is obliged to do night shifts, or to pick up her youngest from kindergarten during the day. Nor are her employers obliged to pay her increased bus fare, let alone child care expenses.

And employment opportunities for unskilled women in Beit Shemesh are even thinner on the ground than in Jerusalem.

What relocation actually means, according to Barbara Epstein, director of the Genesis community advocacy program, is "sending the poor out into the sticks."

In fact, siphoning off trouble-

SUSAN BELLOS

euphemistically described by the Ministry of Housing as "the periphery," is part of a much wider attitude to poor people, which seems to be based on the premise that they aren't quite like you and me.

Amidar, for example, includes among its regulations a clause which can evict a tenant who leaves the premises for more than 48 hours. You and me, when we rent a flat, usually negotiate a contract with the landlord.

Most standard contracts contain a clause obligating the landlord to pay for major repairs, as well as those resulting from wear and tear. Amidar offers prospective tenants

You, me and Aliza G. We're people, she's an encumbrance

a fixed contract which only obliges the corporation to carry out major repairs on the infrastructure of the building.

What this means is that if the pipes get clogged or the boiler blows, the tenant has to pay.

Unfortunately, since most public housing was put up nearly 40 years ago, the pipes clog and the boilers blow an awful lot. A new boiler at NIS 1,000 is big money for a family whose eligibility for public housing is based on having a monthly income of up to NIS 3,100.

Nevertheless, although much of public housing features rotting wooden window frames, water seepage, and extremely poor insulation, it signifies home to no less than 250,000 people. In some places, such as Jerusalem, there are waiting lists of up to five

There are many thousands more Israelis, including Arab citizens and haredi Jews, in even worse dwellings.

A HOME for Aliza G. does not seem to be the kind of issue that has been churning around in the think tanks of the present government. However, they have come up with one bright new idea: privatizing public housing.

It is quite true that public housing, which involves no less than eight public corporations, is a very clumsy, highly bureaucratic giant. So it is tempting for some people to start up a little mantra of "streamlining," "streamlined-down government," "efficiency," etc.

What privatization of public housing will probably translate into, however, is private companies administering public housing by collecting the rents, making the repairs etc., instead of the present corporations.

Unfortunately private companies do have that nasty habit of wanting to make a profit. The only way they can do that here is by raising rents or cutting down on repairs.

So unless the government is dead set on creating Third World slums, it will soon be obliged to subsidize the private companies.

This would, of course, defeat the purpose of making a saving by cutting government involvement. It may be an awful truth to ponder in neo-Thatcherite Israel, but there are some things that aren't intended to be profitable. That's why there is such a thing as democratic government in the first place, since it is also supposed to reflect the needs and aspirations of the people.

The only question is whether, for the present government, people like Aliza G. are people.

The writer is a Jerusalem journalist.

Fate's fault

SUSAN HATTIS ROLEF

We seem to suffer from a serious lack of imagination when it comes to deciding how, as a nation, we should express our common grief.

To me, listening to our — terribly uninspiring — chief of staff, Amnon Shahak, being interviewed at interminable length by each TV channel separately was simply oppressive.

Everyone who watched either or both TV channels during that ghastly period following the helicopter crash now knows a lot — possibly more than they want — about the Yasur helicopter, about flying helicopters at night, about what various people think of Internal Security Minister Kahalani's "sitting ducks" statement, and about the 73 families who lost their loved ones.

All this helped us, perhaps, focus on the event, but to me it wasn't mourning.

I suppose that for some, perhaps even most, of the families who buried their sons last week, it was important that the TV channels tried to show scenes from every single funeral, and the families and friends of those killed eulogizing the dead.

However, once again I suspect that to most of those who watched and did not personally know any of the boys involved, it was a monotonous ritual, one which descended, despite its significance, into the banal.

Yet, I told myself, if it is important to the families, let it be.

The government declared a day of national mourning, even though the term was not quite accurate.

It was a day of mourning primarily for those of us who place our 18-year-old sons and daughters at the disposal of the IDF, to do with as it sees fit in the defense of the country. It was not a day of mourning for those Jews

Some 'Oriental' Jews' reaction to the tragedy stunned me

who, for religious reasons, refuse to send their children to serve.

These people regard the helicopter tragedy as punishment from the Almighty because of the refusal of many of us — perhaps most of us — to abide by the Torah.

IT WAS also not really a day of mourning for most of the Arab citizens of the state, even though there were two Beduin among the 73 soldiers who died.

The way most of the state's Arab citizens view the incident, the soldiers were killed in the framework of an ongoing war caused by Israel's insistence on violating the territorial sovereignty of Lebanon, a war in which most of the victims are Lebanese civilians.

Nevertheless, the Moslem population of the country displayed much greater sensitivity than did our haredi brethren.

All the festivities to have been held in celebration of Id al-Fitr were announced cancelled, out of respect for the day of mourning. Only prayers would be held, Moslem religious authorities said.

One Moslem religious head also wrote to the president, the chief rabbi and the prime minister to express his condolences.

"We pray that we shall know no more grief, and that a true and comprehensive peace will prevail in our region," he said.

The reaction to the horrendous incident that most upset me was the one I heard from many ordinary Israelis, primarily those referred to as "Oriental" Jews.

Signs of the tragedy, I heard declared again and again, could be discerned in the weekly Torah portion, and elsewhere in our sources.

What this implies is that there is no need for us to check and recheck, to make sure that we are taking all necessary precautions to prevent accidents, whatever we do, nothing is in our hands.

Such an interpretation doesn't even associate the event with "sins"; we may have committed.

It was simply something that had to happen, because it was thus preordained.

With such a fatalistic approach, the State of Israel would never have been established — or, if established, would never have developed.

It points to a major failure of our educational system, growing sections of which are totally outside the state system.

It is incredible that, on the eve of the 3rd millennium, such opinions still prevail.

The writer is a political scientist.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BODY BLOW

Sir, — I was both astounded and appalled to read of the Knesset's preliminary vote in favor of granting Israelis living abroad the right to vote overseas. This decision deals a body blow to the very essence of the Zionist cause. What a way to mark the centenary of the Zionist movement!

In his appearance on TV, MK Yehoram compared the situation in Israel with other Western democracies, but such a comparison is hardly valid. Even considering the present trend towards peace in the Middle East, the residents of Israel are still required to place their lives on the line as threats from Syria, Iran and extreme terrorist organizations abound. If anybody is entitled to electoral privilege, it is the soldiers in Southern Lebanon and those guarding the other troubled border areas and not those who abandoned the Land of Israel to enjoy a complacent way of life elsewhere.

MAURICE HERMAN

Hazorea.

BEAUTIFUL HAIFA

Sir, — I refer to Mrs. Branson's letter of January 12 criticizing the Haifa Municipality. I never saw Haifa more beautiful than it is now. Flowers decorate corners, crosswalks and free spaces. Very nice small colored stones are replacing the ugly asphalt of some pedestrian sidewalks. The streets and dustbins are cleaner. There are a lot of new benches everywhere, for the convenience of young and old alike. Special stones indicate the name of the district.

For all these improvements, we have to thank the mayor of Haifa.

MARGOT DRACH-ROSENTHAL

Haifa.

RIGHT TO VOTE

Sir, — Whether Israeli Americans vote or not in American elections in no way affects the elections' outcome. Israelis living abroad — were they allowed to vote in Israeli elections — could determine the outcome. The situations are not parallel.

J. ZEV

Jerusalem.

NO SMOKING

Sir, — Further to your front-page report on the actions of Israel Radio employees preventing municipal inspectors from carrying out their duties in supervising non-smoking regulations (January 28), it might interest your readers, as well as Jerusalem municipal officials, to know that Israel's Media Watch had complained back in September 1996 about smoking inside windowless studios.

At that time, we were answered by Zvi Lider, the Israel Broadcasting Authority's spokesperson. In his letter of September 19, he wrote, "we are working on the matter which you raised, from the standpoint of the law as well as that of common sense."

From the *Post's* story, it would seem that the IBA considers itself above the law, with no common sense.

YISRAEL MEDAD,

Director, Israel's Media Watch

Jerusalem.

DANCE REVIEW

The merry side of dancing

By ORA BRAPMAN

The only ballet company in Israel, the Israel Ballet, celebrates three decades under the directorship of its founder, Berta Yampolsky and Hillel Markman, her husband. In recent years, as the company grew and its work matured, it has reached a

THE ISRAEL BALLETT
30TH ANNIVERSARY
Carte De Visite, Berta Yampolsky
Gershwin Concerto, Erynn Pastore
Encore, Berta Yampolsky
February 4 at the Tel Aviv
Center of Performing Arts

respectable level of professionalism that enables it to tackle major classical and neo-classical ballet works — none of which we saw at last week's performance.

The program was very light and presented the merry side of dancing. All three works evoked a faint tingling feeling of unease as they recalled earlier works by others.

Gershwin's Concerto was set to Gershwin's piano concerto, and Pastor captured well the mood and



Orna Kugel stars in the Israel Ballet's 30th-anniversary performance of 'Carte de Visite.'

spirit of the music and built a delightful interplay between regimented rules of ballet and playfully breaking them. It reminds one of the shrewd dance Who Cares (1970) set to a sequence of song

by Gershwin and set by the great American choreographer George Balanchine.

Yampolsky gives credit to the Danish choreographer Harold Lander who came up with the idea of taking daily ballet exercises and using them as dance material. Several major Russian companies had used the same trick. It worked there and it works very well here in the sense that a mass of enthusiastic dancers stretch and sweat, kick and split, and it looked impressive and populist just as it is. So Yampolsky went even further and gave us her "blue and white" version of "Stars and Stripes" by Balanchine — just without the huge national flag unrolling as a backdrop.

Both works are set to march tunes, both are naive and a bit embarrassing as such. Encore's medley of tunes parades the dancers who stride along.

The authorities are debating whether to invest a fortune on a military parade for the state's 50th independence day. Israel Ballet's festive march beats a military parade any day.

THEATER REVIEW

Wall Street on the stage

By NAOMI DOUDAI

This is the tale of a Wall Street shark come to cannibalize the "proud life achievement of a decent, oldtime manufacturer. The action in Money is dominated by his frenzied attempt at a takeover. A racy,

OTHER PEOPLE'S MONEY

By Jerry Sroger. Hebrew, Amnon Dahan. Hebrew title, *Leef* (that's *Alone*). Beersheba Municipal Theater.

fast-moving, fast-talking scenario, it has already been successfully filmed.

But while high-finance wizards



Avi Oria and Ariel Furman give fine performances.

may follow the fun, to the uninitiated, stock exchange shenanigans

are not all that comprehensible or intriguing.

However, for theatergoers in Beersheba, there is the depiction of the demise of seemingly still rentable but economically outdated concerns, an issue that harasses the area more than just a little.

Peppered with salty Hebrew street idiom and heavy with the suspense of a hate-love denouement — money finally wins but so does love — a shambly happy-ending offsets the dark side of what might otherwise have been a serious socio-economic drama.

At all levels, the performances with Avi Oria and Ariel Furman as the leads are as animated and entertaining as the spirited dialogue.

Director Millo — an appreciation

By HELEN KAYE

Yosef Millo, the director who made theater here Israeli, died last week. He did not go quietly into the night. At his 80th birthday celebration a few months earlier, he had whispered a wish as he blew out the sole candle on the cake: "to direct."

But it did not happen, could not happen, because the theater community that owes much of its professional life to his vision and genius had dropped him like last year's calendar.

"Such neglect is hard to forgive," said playwright/translator Dan Almagor, standing on the Cameri stage by Millo's coffin, "but we are guilty too because we had no time for him."

Millo founded the Cameri Theater in 1944 with his wife, Jemima, and a few young rebels, and ran it until 1961 when he founded the Haifa Theater. And with one bold stroke, Millo made Israeli theater local and contemporary with his landmark 1948 production of Moshe Shamir's *Hu Halach Basadot* ("He Went Through the Fields").

Born in Czechoslovakia, Millo, known to friends as Peppo, and his family immigrated in 1920. His theatrical career started when the Matateh Theater hired him as an actor in 1942. His last theater job was as an actor too, playing the old doctor in the 1994 Habimah production of *The Three Sisters*.

Between 1944 and 1976, when his career effectively ended, he directed some 50 productions, often adapting them for the stage himself. In 1982, embittered and disillusioned, he went to Germany where he became principal of the Essen Fine Arts School.

His was what is known as director's theater way before its time. He had imagination, style, daring and an impeccable sixth sense of what would work on stage. He was, above all, an actors' director. Charismatic and charming though he was, Millo could also be capricious and insensitive.

His disregard for time and budget was legendary, but "when they come to write him into history," as Moshe Shamir said, "they'll have to use that word: 'genius.'"

A friend of Natasha

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

If this is Natasha Tadsou's year, the pianist owes it all to Hadasa Levin, who died just over a year ago. "I don't have a manager and I'm not pushing myself," says Tadsou. "I don't like doing it and I'm too lazy about this aspect of the career. But Hadasa, who was a very dear woman and a great friend, arranged all these concerts for me."

The concerts are a series with the Israel Symphony Orchestra Rishon LeZion, the Haifa Symphony Orchestra and the Ra'anana Symphonette Orchestra, as well as a recital at the Tel Aviv Museum.

Tadsou immigrated from the Soviet Union two decades ago and has an Israeli husband and an Israeli daughter. But "I don't know if I ever felt like a new immigrant," she says.

"I have two worlds... And when I need to force my daughter [Hadar, 11] to play the violin I behave like a Russian mother enforcing a military regime."

TADSON DOES NOT have a favorite composition although she seems to be associated with the Russian repertoire — she plays Shostakovich with the Rishon LeZion and Ra'anana orchestras,

and Prokofiev with Haifa. "The piece I'm playing at a certain time is always the best in the world for me. Even when I play an Israeli work, which I don't want and from which I suffer, once I go on stage to play it I'm convinced that it is the best work in the world."

She seems to prefer the preparation and rehearsal process to the actual performances. "If people would pay me for practicing I would have loved doing it because this is definitely my greatest pleasure. I like to work, to study and to advance in life. And you achieve this by regular ongoing work at the piano and not necessarily in 'the limelight.'"

And this is why Tadsou chooses her repertoire according to her own taste and not necessarily to pander to the audience. In her coming Tel Aviv Museum recital on February 22 she plays works by Schubert, Beethoven and Liszt, and Beethoven's *Diabelli Variations*. The latter is a work "only people who actually play the piano can enjoy, it's really not for the average audience. But I chose a program which suits my soul and my intellect and hopefully the audience will enjoy it too. And if they don't that's OK with me as well. I don't want to insult the audience, but I play first and foremost for myself."

CONCERT ROUNDUP

'La Boheme' comes down to earth

When tenor Vincenzo La Scala cried "Mimi, Mimi," at the end of *La Boheme*, it was not even a cry, but more a faint recognition of the futility of life.

It was not the usual way to end the opera, but then this IPO concert performance was far from usual. Giuseppe Sinopoli, on the podium, gave us a *Boheme* totally devoid of its usual Puccinian schmaltz.

Instead of the soul, Sinopoli addressed his performance to the intellect. This was not a romantic *La Boheme* but a very down-to-earth one, more in tune with the verismo composers Mascagni and Leoncavallo.

Sinopoli was at his best in the third act of the opera, the most poignant and "real" in the story. This is where the story reached to the heart, where one realized that

these young lovers will never be able to make it.

Sinopoli's choice of tempi were well calculated and performed. Unfortunately the singers were not all up to Sinopoli's level and that of the orchestra, which played superbly.

La Scala was fine as Rodolfo. Maria Bayo is a first-rate singer, but her Mimi was too heavy and over-dramatic. The rest of the cast was mediocre, and Julie Kaufmann's Musetta didn't manage to excite the audience in the opera's showstopping aria.

Mann Auditorium, Feb. 3

Michael Ajzenstadt

A TABLA — Indian drum — solo, by Pandit Sharda Sahai, is a rare treat. From slow, sustained beats to almost unbelievably fast ones, the imperceptibly gradual acceleration transforms one's accustomed

IN TUNE



No Doubt's magic 'Kingdom'

By DAVID BRINN

No Doubt is undoubtedly the band of the moment, and *Tragic Kingdom* is one of the dark-horse success stories of the past year. The album is a melting pot of late '70s styles propelled by an updated MTV sheen.

The outlandish B-52s/Blondie caricatures and the cheesy synth riffs and Gwen Stefani's girl-group vocals float effortlessly over reggae, ska and punk beats.

It's as if the band said to all the great new-wave bands of the '70s: "If you're not using this style anymore, do you mind if we borrow it?"

It's ironic that this joyous brew

reached No. 1 in the US on the strength of the rather ordinary Madonna-cloned mega-hit "Don't Speak."

The rest of the record, however,

TRAGIC KINGDOM
No Doubt
(Red Artzi)

SISTERS OF AVALON
Cyndi Lauper
(NMC)

is one big late-'70s California beach party, one that the members of No Doubt and anyone who hears the record must be enjoying immensely.

REGARDLESS OF where her career has gone since, the fact remains that Cyndi Lauper was responsible for one of pop's shining moments with 1984's *She's So Unusual*.

A gaggle of alternative female rockers including current No Doubt's Gwen Stefani owe a great debt to Lauper's groundbreaking melodic and vocal innovations that made her one of the most original artists to emerge in the '80s.

Dormant for most of this decade except for a successful greatest-hits package, Lauper has returned with the widely varied, wildly inconsistent *Sisters of Avalon*.

Lauper can't decide whether to delve into the sophisticated pop-

funk quarters that the likes of Annie Lennox call home or slick with the quirky, starkly personal tunes she rose to stardom on. So she tries both.

Unfortunately, the traits that made her so attractive are often buried under a slick gloss that still makes for pleasant listening but falls short of her potential.

When she strips away the facade, her skewed outlook, wonderfully unique vocals and gift for melody shine through, making ballads like "Hot Gets a Little Cold" and "Fearless" and the infectious single "You Don't Know" among her best work.

She's still unusual, if a little less so, and she's still worthwhile.

Radio 3 supports local artists

By CHARLES SOLOMON

Radio 3 recently announced that it is to increase the percentage of Israeli repertoire it broadcasts from the current unofficial rate of 40 percent to 60 percent.

The move comes in response to the station's recent decline in popularity. During its heyday in the '70s, '80s and early '90s, Radio 3 was Israel's premier pop radio station, but it now finds itself in a very different marketplace.

The first blow came in the guise of MTV, which stole the thunder not only from Radio 3, but also from the rival IDF radio station.

To make matters worse, Radio 3 now has to compete with a myriad of local radio stations that have sprung up in the last 18 months.

Menahem Granit, Radio 3's Head of Programming and Entertainment, explains that the sta-

tion's main aim is to support Israeli artists.

The station is making a concerted effort to discover and nurture new and emerging talent, and is doing so by broadcasting special programs from development towns, in which local artists are given a chance to be heard on a national level.

The station also broadcasts live performances of local artists who might not get the exposure they deserve. In other words, it is becoming a community station, but on a national level.

Israel is not alone in "protecting" its local artists from being swamped by "imported" music. Canada, for example, has a similar situation where radio stations by law have to broadcast 40 percent local content.

And here, one of the new regional radio stations in the Dan region last week announced that it will be adopting a 100 percent Israeli music policy.

The question is whether Radio

3's decision to pursue this policy is the beginning of a new xenophobic trend which will eventually have radio stations turning their backs, or severely limiting,

non-Israeli music being played on their programs, or whether they simply have their ears to the ground, and know what local audiences really want to hear.

TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

THIS LAST WEEKS ON	WEEK	CHARTS	ARTIST	TITLE
#1	2	13	OST	EVITA
#2	1	12	TONI BRAXTON	SECRETS
#3	3	9	NO DOUBT	TRAGIC KINGDOM
#4	4	12	VIA	SPIRIT OF THE WORLD
#5	6	10	SHUD BANAI	OD MEAT
#6	7	7	VIA	BEST OF '96
#7	9	24	RAMI KLEINSTEIN	COLLECTION
#8	20	8	RONIT SHAHAR	SHALOM LATIMUT
#9	18	4	JAMIROQUAI	TRAVELING...
#10	5	13	SPICE GIRLS	SPICE
#11	12	48	RITA	COLLECTION
#12	RE	-	VIA	HITMAN 7
#13	11	47	SHLOMO ARTZI	SHINAIM
#14	8	4	MIKA KARNI	MIKA KARNI
#15	14	40	GEORGE MICHAEL	OLDER

Tower Records' top-selling albums for last week

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BUSINESS

in brief

Frenkel: January deficit alarming

The government's NIS 1.28 billion budget deficit in January is "alarming" since it represents a meaningful deviation from the current fiscal year's master plan, Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel said this week at the Jerusalem Economic Forum. He reiterated his long-standing view that the government should adopt a monitoring mechanism with which it can detect budgetary deviations and treat them in time.

Jerusalem Post Staff

Gov't to give Bezeq NIS 60m. owed by PA

Bezeq will get the NIS 60 million owed the telecommunications company by the Palestinian Authority, after the Finance Ministry agreed to deduct the money from the funds it transfers on a regular basis to the PA.

The agreement, long sought by Bezeq, was reached by outgoing Treasury director-general David Brodet and outgoing Bezeq director-general Yitzhak Kaul. Bezeq agreed to immediately transfer the royalties it has been withholding from the Treasury while waiting for a solution to the PA debt problem. A few weeks ago, Bezeq sent the ministry NIS 30.5m. out of the NIS 76m. it owed in royalties.

Judy Segel

World Bank: Africa top priority

World Bank President James Wolfensohn wrapped up a visit to Senegal yesterday with a warning to Africa to stamp out corruption. "Africa is the World Bank's top priority and we want to strengthen our partnerships with the region," he said. "We've got money available. What we need are satisfactory projects."

Last year the World Bank approved \$2.7 billion in loans for African countries covering 53 projects. Wolfensohn, who later left for Ghana and the second leg of a nine-day Africa tour, said the bank would keep a watch list of anyone tainted by corruption.

"As far as World Bank projects are concerned, anyone found guilty of corruption will be put on our black list and we will not deal with them," he told a news conference at the end of a three-day visit to the West African nation. It was a theme he touched on before leaving Washington on the tour, which also takes him to Mozambique and South Africa.

Reuters

America Online aims for non-US members

America Online Inc. said yesterday it aims to have more than one million members outside the US in 1997 and expects Japan to become the second biggest Internet market.

"We were the first \$1 billion interactive services company and we aim to be the first \$2b. company," AOL International President Jack Davies said yesterday during the MLLA multimedia fair, which runs until tomorrow. He said the aim of AOL studies was to become "platform-independent" and create content that can be available on the AOL service, but also on the Internet or via digital television.

Reuters

Gaon: Koor to hold road show in 'a Gulf state' later this year

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN
and GALLY LIPKIS BECK

Koor Industries Ltd., Israel's largest industrial concern, will send a delegation on an investors road show to one of the Gulf states later this year, CEO Benjamin Gaon said yesterday during a meeting with *The Jerusalem Post*, where he offered a broad assessment of the relationship between big business and the peace process.

An article based on the meeting will appear in next week's *Money* magazine.

Gaon, who would not specify exactly when the event will take place or in which country, said the plan reflects improvements in business relationships with neighboring countries following the Hebron agreement.

"I can't go into details, because I don't want to destroy the plan," Gaon said. "It's enough of a statement that it's kosher; it means it's not a secret."

An open supporter of Shimon Peres's reelection bid, Gaon said, the peace process is continuing under Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and its benefits are beginning to be felt throughout the business community.

While the Arab boycott is less acute, he pointed to improved relations with countries such as Indonesia, India, China, and Japan as the real proof of Israel's expanding circle of business partners.

"Being an Israeli entrepreneur and an Israeli businessman is no longer a liability; in fact it has become an asset worldwide," Gaon said. "I don't have to apologize that I am an Israeli or to hide my identity."

The real change in climate took place following November's Cairo economic summit.

Unlike the 1995 regional business conference in Casablanca, where some 250 enthusiastic Israeli businessmen descended on Morocco with billion-dollar business proposals, at last year's event Arab and Israeli delegates



Koor Industries CEO Benjamin Gaon (center), hosted by Jerusalem Post President and Publisher Yekuda Levy (third from right), meets with members of the newspaper's senior staff yesterday.

discussed more realistic deals in the range of \$20 million - \$30m., Gaon said.

He said the recent visit here by Ibrahim Kamel, an Egyptian business tycoon and the Cairo-based Kato conglomerate's CEO, followed their acquaintance during the conference.

"I insisted that if he came to Israel he would do so in the wide open, in the full limelight of the media," he said.

Since then unconfirmed reports by *The Financial Times* have claimed Kato purchased \$60m. worth of Koor shares, a batch which would add up to a 5% stake in the holding company.

Gaon would only say that shares were bought, but he "had no idea" of the size of the purchase.

Recently warming business relations with Cairo have led Koor to also consider participat-

ing in the Egyptian government's privatization efforts, specifically in the telecommunications sector.

Koor, which has also been deeply involved in supplying the Palestinian Authority's accelerated construction activity, is now beginning to look at opportunities in its telecommunications sector.

Concerning Netanyahu's leadership, Gaon complimented his "MIT earned" economic knowl-

edge, which he thought was promisingly complemented by Finance Minister Dan Meridor's experience and Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel's expertise.

"They are not amateurs and they are running the economy in an orderly fashion," he said. However, his impression is that the premier has yet to surround himself with an efficient staff, Gaon said.

Beilin: Don't hurt interests of Cable and Wireless

By DAVID HARRIS

Long-time supporters of a free-market economy are monitoring the latest developments surrounding Bezeq's privatization "with some concern," according to Labor MK Yossi Beilin, who cautioned the government yesterday not to harm the interests of UK-based minority shareholder Cable and Wireless (C&W).

Beilin's remarks followed the cabinet's decision on Friday to cap any private holding - whether local or foreign - in the national phone carrier at 25 percent, and to require government approval for any attempted purchase of more than a 5% stake in the company.

"If they are doing this to harm Cable's interests, it's not a sensible move," said Beilin.

Meretz MK Amnon Rubinstein, a former communications minister, called the 5% rule "far too extreme."

Communications Minister Limor Livnat said the decision was not

taken to restrict the interests of C&W, which currently holds 10.02% of the firm, but to eliminate a distinction between home and foreign investors in Bezeq.

Other state assets already face similar restrictions. El Al, for example, is prohibited by international regulations from selling more than a 25% stake to a foreign investor.

"I don't object if the government wishes to keep Bezeq in Israeli hands, but not in this way," said Rubinstein. "For a government that believes in the free market, this is a very strange decision."

The government wishes to reach a standstill agreement with C&W before proceeding with a global public offering, whereby the company will refrain from buying more shares, according to the October 1996 Privatization in Israel report from the Giza Group, a private investment banking firm.

The report adds that the government resents C&W purchasing shares in the open market. C&W called in August for Bezeq

to be privatized by offering shares to the public, rather than by selling a controlling interest to a strategic investor.

"Cable & Wireless supports the Israel government's endeavors to achieve a public flotation of shares and its privatization of Bezeq," according to a company statement.

C&W wants to expand its stake in Bezeq but does not seek controlling share in the firm, C&W executive director for strategy and corporate business development, Jonathan Solomon, said at the Jerusalem Business Conference in November.

"Cable wants to increase its share in Bezeq," he said. "We're not mounting a takeover, nor seeking control. There is not necessarily a correlation between share ownership and control."

One factor deterring the government from selling the controlling share is time, since it would take much longer than a share flotation, as it would require new legislation. "We are currently studying the proposals," said C&W spokesman Peter Eustus. "We are continuing to hold negotiations with the government, in a friendly atmosphere."

"Bezeq is very unhappy with C&W's involvement, not because of a fear of losing control, but because it believes Cable is not sufficiently innovative," one leading expert on the public sector said. "Bezeq would much rather do business with a US firm, not a company which isn't even the market leader in Britain."

C&W purchased its share of Bezeq via the markets, not in a private sale, something Beilin says is the way a government company should be privatized.

"I believe the way forward is by public flotation and allowing the workforce to play a role, not by sale of the controlling shares," said Beilin.

Claridge: Political-economic climate behind return to race for Hapoalim

By GALLY LIPKIS BECK

A dramatic change in Claridge's analysis of Israel's macro-economic and political situation has encouraged the group to join the Arison consortium in its bid for control of Bank Hapoalim, Jonathan Kolber, head of the investment group which last June withdrew from the race for the purchase, said yesterday.

When Claridge dropped out of the tender, it explained that various economic and political factors had changed since it was first published.

The government's sale of Hapoalim, the nation's largest bank, is in the framework of the privatization process.

According to Kolber, the group's decision to once again take part in the tender is primarily due to political and economic changes.

"We believe that the current recession

won't be as severe as some expected, and the resurgence of the capital market is an indication of better things to come," he said.

The signing of the Hebron agreement also encouraged the Claridge Group, Kolber said. "I think this is a major change, or a confirmation of where the government is going. I think it is good for the economy and for peace."

In addition to Claridge, the Arison consortium - which is headed by businessman Ted Arison - consists of the Dankner Group, Bitan Wertheimer and Moti Zisser, US billionaire Len Abramson and the US fund Hperion, which specializes in bank acquisitions.

Arison Investments, which will be the leading investor in the consortium, is expected to purchase up to 30% of the package of Bank Hapoalim shares to be acquired, while the remaining shares will be equally divided amongst the other investors.

The Arison consortium is competing for control of Bank Hapoalim against a group headed by US businessman Jeffrey Keil and local businessman Eliezer Fishman.

Both groups are interested in purchasing larger shares than the 20% offered by the government.

MI Holdings, the government-owned firm in charge of the bank sale process, is expected to officially announce the opening of the tender soon.

It has the intention of completing the sale within five months.

The Arison group has a small advantage over the Keil consortium in the Hapoalim stakes, because Arison and Claridge already have the Bank of Israel's approval to purchase control of the bank.

Keil and Fishman currently hold 8% of the bank's shares.

No comment was available from the Keil-Fishman group.

Westinghouse buys cable channels from Gaylord for \$1.55b.

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP) - Westinghouse Electric Corp., the owner of the CBS television network, is acquiring two country music cable channels from Gaylord Entertainment for \$1.55 billion in stock.

Westinghouse is getting The Nashville Network and the Country Music Television channels networks in the deal announced yesterday.

For years under its previous owners, CBS had stayed out of the cable industry while focusing on its broadcasting business.

That put it at odds with ABC and NBC; ABC controls the ESPN networks, while NBC has the MSNBC and CNBC cable channels. Under Westinghouse, though, CBS has been making significant efforts to expand into cable.

The network is developing a channel called CBS Eye On

People that will use archives and new programming to air reality-based shows about people.

It is set to launch on March 31. Last June, CBS bought the Spanish-language news channel TeleNoticias, which is available on cable and satellite.

Edward Gaylord, chairman of Gaylord Entertainment, said his company felt the two country music networks could grow faster as part of a larger media company.

The Nashville Network has programming focusing on country music and motorsports.

Country Music Television primarily airs music videos.

TNN currently reaches more than 70 million households and CMT goes to about 38 million households.

The transaction is expected to be completed later this year, the companies said.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.3.96)				
Currency (deposit term)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	9 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.250	5.575
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.875	4.000	4.250	4.500
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.825	1.825	2.125	2.125
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.825	0.750	1.000	1.000
Yen (10 million yen)				

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (10.2.97)

Currency basket	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rates**
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.857	3.857	3.83	3.83	3.8384
German mark	3.2675	3.2675	3.23	3.23	3.2380
Pound sterling	1.993	2.0225	1.95	2.05	2.0109
French franc	5.3731	5.4988	5.28	5.54	5.4301
Japanese yen (100)	0.5893	0.5898	0.57	0.51	0.5854
Dutch florin	2.8791	2.7224	2.63	2.77	2.7107
Swiss franc	1.7715	1.8001	1.74	1.83	1.7866
Swedish krona	2.3166	2.3536	2.27	2.39	2.3377
Norwegian krona	0.4463	0.4558	0.44	0.47	0.4529
Denmark krone	0.5046	0.5128	0.48	0.52	0.5097
Finland mark	0.5218	0.5303	0.51	0.54	0.5272
Canadian dollar	0.6713	0.6822	0.65	0.70	0.6780
Australian dollar	2.4329	2.4722	2.39	2.51	2.4587
S. African rand	2.4908	2.5310	2.44	2.57	2.5187
Belgian franc (10)	0.7443	0.7584	0.67	0.70	0.7331
Austrian schilling (10)	0.8649	0.8905	0.84	1.00	0.9742
Italian lira (1000)	2.6284	2.6751	2.78	2.82	2.8685
Jordanian dinar	2.0278	2.0608	1.95	2.08	2.0451
Egyptian pound	4.5700	4.6800	4.52	4.68	4.7182
EU	0.8300	1.0200	0.93	1.02	1.0135
Irish punt	3.8622	3.9258	3.78	4.04	3.9030
Spanish peseta (100)	5.2748	5.3538	5.18	5.44	5.3204
	2.3515	2.3888	2.31	2.43	2.3748

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel. SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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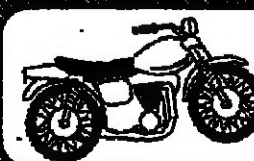
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سلاسل الاطراف

SPORTS

in brief

Millwall sack manager, put 12 players up for sale

LONDON (Reuters) - London club Millwall sacked their manager Jimmy Nicholl and chief executive Graham Horopt yesterday and transfer-listed 12 players in a drastic £1.5 million (\$2.4 million) cost-cutting exercise.

They also asked all remaining staff and players to take a 10 percent cut in wages.

Manager Nicholl, a former Northern Ireland international who had been manager since February 1996 was replaced by John Docherty, back at the club he took into the top flight in 1988.

Millwall have been relegated twice since then and have accumulated debts of around £10 million (\$16.3 million).

Girardelli says farewell

SESTRIERE, Italy (Reuters) - Luxembourg's Marc Girardelli, one of the greatest racers in the history of Alpine skiing, announced his retirement yesterday after doctors told him to quit or risk a life on crutches.

The five-times overall World Cup champion said he had wanted to complete this season and continue until the 1998 Nagano Olympics but his 33-year-old body, battered by injury, could stand no more.

He won 46 races and captured 13 medals at championships and Olympics in a 17-year career.

Cronje to captain Irish cricket team

CAPE TOWN (Reuters) - South African cricket captain Hansie Cronje is to lead Ireland in England's Benson and Hedges Cup limited-overs competition later this year, it was revealed yesterday.

Cronje, who has never been to Ireland, will captain the side in four matches starting in April in a competition where they have not won a game since they first participated in 1994.

Ireland's most famous cricketing victory came in a one-day game at the expense of the mighty West Indies in 1969 and, with the inspirational Cronje at the helm, they now hope to win at least one group match.

Bickerstaff to coach Bullets

DENVER (AP) - Bernie Bickerstaff resigned yesterday as the Denver Nuggets' general manager to become head coach of the Washington Bullets.

Bickerstaff, whose served as an assistant with Washington from 1973-1985, was to be introduced as the Bullets' coach at a news conference at the team's practice facility in Bowie, Maryland today.

Hapoel Tel Aviv almost sold

By ORI LEWIS

After months of searching for "Messrs. Right," Hapoel Tel Aviv soccer club appears to have found the group of investors who will buy and support the ailing outfit.

Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz announced yesterday that a consortium headed by advertising mogul Moshe Teomim, Sami Sagol, a leading executive in Keter Plastic, and businessman Motti Orenstein would begin the takeover of the club when negotiations are completed in a month.

The Histadrut will continue to run the day-to-day business of Hapoel until the end of this season, when it will be handed over to the new owners. The consortium has agreed to pay an initial sum of NIS 1.5 million, while the Histadrut will continue to run the club, and service its debts, which amount to an estimated NIS 7 million.

The new owners will have only a limited managerial role this season and have committed to invest at least NIS 1 million beyond running costs in each of the coming seasons. They will receive the club debt-free at the beginning of the coming season.

"Continuity is the most important

priority at present," Teomim said yesterday. "We will begin preparing the club for next season in consultation with the current management and the coach [Dror Kashan]."

The club is still not 100 percent saved, however, as a clause in the purchasing contract says that the investors can pull out of the deal if Hapoel is relegated. The club currently lies next to bottom in the National League, a position from which the only way is down, to the Second Division.

The new faces at Bloomfield are also very interested in holding on to international defender Felix Haifon, who has made it clear he wishes to move to Maccabi Tel Aviv. His case is currently under arbitration.

"We will do our best to keep Felix at Hapoel Tel Aviv, as we are still responsible for the club," said Peretz. "However, if the arbitrator decides that he is free to go, the money from his sale will be put into a fund which will go toward buying other players," Peretz concluded.

Teomim announced that Orenstein would be the executive most involved in the day-to-day running of the club.



Fastest down the slopes

Austria's Stefanie Schuster passes a gate as she clocks the fastest time in women's downhill practice in Sestriere, Italy yesterday. The race proper, which is part of the World Alpine Skiing Championships will be held on Saturday.

Hapoel Jerusalem hoping to pluck Fener's feathers

By ARYEN DEAN COHEN

Staggered a bit by its loss to Hapoel Tel Aviv at Ussishkin on Sunday night, Hapoel Jerusalem returns to European Cup play this evening at Malha against Turkey's Fenerbahce, hoping to build a point differential that will hold up next week in Turkey.

Coach Gadi Kedari's club has to be buoyed by Billy Thompson's recovery from a back injury. Thompson had a fine State Cup game last week vs. Bnei Herzliya, and played well vs. Tel Aviv, despite the team's loss.

Still, Kedari no doubt would have liked his charges to be coming off a win going into the important European contest, his club's first since disposing of Germany's Ulm.

The Turkish club, which has played in European competition for the past four consecutive years, is probably best known for center Dallas Comegys, a 2.06 meter De Paul graduate who played in the NBA before finally coming to Turkey, where he was shot and seriously wounded in a Turkish nightclub. A definite force inside, Comegys will probably draw either Thompson or Dan Bingenheimer

on defense. Fener's other foreigner, forward Henry Turner (2.00) who also has NBA experience, vowed never to leave Turkey until Comegys recovered from the shooting, and is a highly potent offensive player who can score inside or outside. He averages over 25 points per game in the Turkish league.

Point guard and Turkish national team player Ibrahim Kutlaci is the other offensive threat, who once scored 56 points for the Turkish side. A brilliant three-point shooter, he and the two foreigners can light up the scoreboard in a hurry. Arda

Kashan is Fener's point guard, while 2.07 forward Zaza Anden plays up front with the two Americans. Kedari would be well-advised to try to slow down the pace, as the Turks are a running club.

If Jerusalem manages to work the ball inside to Thompson and Bingenheimer and the two are able to foul out one or both of the Americans, it will give Hapoel that much more of a shot at achieving the big win they need to survive next week in Istanbul, where the going will, undoubtedly, be very tough indeed.

Scotland seek real win in Estonia replay

MONTE CARLO (Reuters) - Scotland will seek to extend their lead at the top of their World Cup qualifying group against Estonia in Monaco today in a replay of a game scrapped last year when Estonia failed to show up.

Estonian coach Teitur Thordarson plans to send his young team into attack hoping for an upset despite what he fears is Scottish skill in set pieces and in the air, including tall Everton striker Duncan Ferguson.

The match is being played in the Mediterranean principality of Monaco after Estonia failed to show up to the original game in

Tallinn in October, where the kick-off was brought forward after Scotland complained about the floodlights.

Scotland kicked off alone and were originally awarded a 3-0 victory after a surreal game that lasted three seconds. Estonia secured a replay, and Monaco was chosen after suggestions of sending the teams to Cyprus or even Azerbaijan.

Thordarson said the Estonians, deprived of a local crowd for the game, were not smarting for revenge after the farce in Tallinn. "It won't make much difference," he said.

Scotland currently heads World Cup qualifying group four with seven points, ahead of Austria on goal difference after three games apiece. A victory would extend Scotland's lead to three clear points and if they follow up an expected win in Monaco with home wins against Estonia and Austria on March 29 and April 2.

Moya leads Spain over Germany in Davis Cup

LONDON (Reuters) - Australian Open finalist Carlos Moya cruised to a straight-sets victory over Hendrik Dreckmann on Sunday to give Spain an unbeatable 3-1 lead over 1993 champions Germany in their Davis Cup world group first round match.

Moya broke Dreckmann's serve in the opening games of the first two sets to win 6-4, 6-4, 7-5 on clay in Mallorca.

Jim Courier overcame a spirited challenge from Gustavo Kuerten to give 1995 champions US a decisive 3-1 lead over Brazil in Ribeirao, winning 6-3, 6-2, 5-7, 7-6. Alex O'Brien won the final singles against Fernando Meligeni.

Thomas Enqvist clinched the rubber with a 6-3, 6-2, 3-6, 6-2 win over Marc Rosset who was clearly feeling the effects of 10 hard sets over the previous two days.

"We are eager to bring the Cup to Sweden," said team captain Carl Axel Hagberg. "With the team spirit and the very good players I have, I think it's possible. We have to go for it." France were ousted from the Cup on Saturday by Australia, who com-

pleted the formality of a 4-1 win on Sunday.

The Netherlands, trailing 2-0 after the opening singles, completed a remarkable comeback by beating Romania in Bucharest.

Paul Haarhuis clinched the tie by beating Andrei Pavel 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 after team mate Jan Siemenink defeated Adrian Panaitescu 7-6, 5-7, 6-7, 7-6, 6-4.

In Durban, South African doubles pair Ellis Ferreira and Grant Stafford defeated Russia's Andrei Olshovskiy and Andrei Cherkasov 6-2, 3-6, 6-0, 6-2 in a match carried over from Saturday to secure their quarter-final spot.

Jiri Novak sealed a 3-2 victory for the Czech Republic over India with an easy 6-1, 6-4, 6-3 after the Czech No. 1 Petr Korda had levelled the tie in his final Davis Cup appearance.

Korda defeated Leander Paes 5-7, 6-3, 6-4, 6-1 then announced he was retiring from Davis Cup tennis.

"It is a very tiring, draining experience and I think you should leave at the top," Korda said. "Now is the right time."

Derby day in Toto Cup semis

By DEREK FATTAL

Civic rivalries in both Tel Aviv and Haifa are set to heat up with National League outfits from both cities competing against each other in this afternoon's Toto Cup semi-finals.

Up north at Kiryat Eliezer, Maccabi Haifa faces off against Hapoel Haifa, while the Big Orange's contest sees the city's two leading National League clubs, Maccabi Tel Aviv and Bnei Yehuda lock horns against each at the National Stadium Ramat Gan.

At stake is a place in next Tuesday's Toto Cup final and a sizeable cash bonus for the eventual winner. All four semi-finalists have had disappointing seasons in the National League, and so today's matches are a perfect opportunity for them to show some of their real potential, and bring some long-awaited cheer to their fans.

In the Haifa meeting Hapoel will be buoyed by their determined performance against Betar Jerusalem last Saturday, and will be aiming to avenge the 2-1 defeat inflicted by Maccabi when the sides met in the league last October.

Maccabi Tel Aviv found the net four times against Hapoel Beersheba at the weekend but are likely to find Bnei Yehuda a somewhat tougher proposition. Both matches kick off at 5 pm.

In the Second Division's semi-final phase of the competition, there is a strong likelihood of an all-Ashdod final. Hapoel Ashdod plays Hapoel Hadera, while Ironi Ashdod is pitted against Hakoah Ramat Gan. Both matches are being played at Bat Yam, with the first game kicking-off at 3 pm, and the second at 5 pm.

Drug testing to become mandatory

By HEATHER CHAIT

Israeli sport is on the threshold of a new era where all players will be subjected to drug tests.

Following rumors in the Hebrew press that top soccer players have been using stimulants to enhance their performance, Deputy Minister of Education Moshe Feled decided yesterday that drug detecting tests will be carried out on sportsmen.

In Yediot Aharanot this week, an anonymous soccer player revealed that use of drugs is widespread, adding that even members of a team that won the league were guilty.

The decision to test players came after a meeting at Wingate Institute between Feled, sports officials and the Committee Against Drugs in Sport.

Until recently, specimens were sent to Cologne for analysis, at a prohibitive cost, but facilities at Tel Hashomer's Central Laboratory for Drug Detection are now expected to meet the standards of local bodies.

This will reduce the expense of the test from NIS 1,000 to NIS 80 per test.

Results which prove positive will then be forwarded to the laboratory in Cologne for a more thorough examination, including tests to detect anabolic steroids.

Both the Israel Football Association and the Israel Basketball Association backed the yesterday decision.

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LOCAL SCENE

Jewish Hall of Fame announces inductees for '97

By HEATHER CHAIT

Hall of Fame inductees: Seven American personalities are among the figures to be honored in 1997 by the International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame. Joint chairmen of the IJSHF, Alan Sherman and R. Stephen Rubin announced the names of those who will be inducted in July at the museum at the Wingate Institute.

The Americans are: Arthur Blumenthal, Princeton University football All-American 1911 and 1912, Solly Krieger, world middleweight boxing champion 1938-39, Milton Green, Harvard's hurdler 1935-36, Mort Lindsey, tennis bowling champion and Sid Tannenbaum, 1946 and 1947 NYU basketball All-American.

Pillar of Achievement honorees are: Dr. William Lipp, a founder of the Israel Tennis Centers and Murray Olderman, sportswriter and cartoonist.

Israel's Margalit Sonnenfeld, past coach of Paralympics medalists, is also to be honored with a Pillar of Achievement award.

Ein Gedi Marathon: The thrill of running at the lowest point on earth will bring over 1000 runners to the Dead Sea area on February 22. The 15th Ein Gedi Run, in memory of Giora and Tomer Ron, will include the 21.1 kilometer half-marathon, a 10km race and a 2km children's run.

Among the visitors to the shores of the Dead Sea will be 100 runners from Germany, who will first compete in the Luxor Marathon in Egypt and then cross through Tabs to pick up their race at Ein Gedi.

Bowls: Ramat Gan's ladies' team had to wait until the very last bowl from Zoe Slowowitz

before they could declare victory over Kiryat Ono's team in Netanya. Playing for Ramat Gan were Freda Pincus, Nili Harpe, Shosh Assiyahu and Slowowitz who inched ahead 15-14 over their victims Maya van Crevel, Ruthie Gilor, Shoshana Cohen and Vicky Sade.

The men's section of the annual round robin tournament sponsored by Shaked Tours, was hardly as nailbiting. Ramat Hasharon's Josh Elkstein, Yehuda Bar-On, Amnon Ben-Avraham and David Navias sailed through 21-11 over Ra'anana's Antonio Rachimov, David Gordon, Myron Weinberg and Clive Peitz.

Golf: Braving strong winds and cold weather were one hundred golfers at this week's monthly medal competition at Caesarea. Matti Geri won the A division with a one under par 74, with Zev Abrahams on the same score but with an inferior back-nine. Martin Cooper on 75 was third.

Henry Konkier on 75 won the B division with Moshe Namdar and Teddy Kenay behind him on 76 and 77 respectively.

Izzy Rozenberg, a 22 handicap, had an excellent 42-43 for an 85 gross 63 net to win the C division. Jules Cubumek was second on 70 and Dan Shalbar had 71.

The D division went to Marcus Mandel with 76 and Gabriel Fish and Shmuel Hochberg tied on 79.

In the Coca Cola league, Herzliya and Kfar Shmaryahu are tied in first place after three rounds.

Squash: Herzliyan soldier Ronen Goldberg is proving peerless in the squash circles. Top seed Goldberg won the Grand Prix at Ra'anana on Saturday with a 3-0 win over second seed Dovik

Drukman, from Kfar Hamaccabiah.

Twenty eight players competed in the tournament, including two women who made it through the qualifying rounds.

The national championships, from February 23-March 1, are open to all and closing date for registering is February 16.

Bedrooming: This is not a sport for immigrants only. Hapoel Jerusalem is a strong contender in the national league and fully utilizes their four courts in Kiryat Hayovel. Adult matches are played on Monday and Thursday and children play on Friday afternoons. For more information about playing at any level, call (02) 6702829 or 6702921.

Show-jumping: The fourth national league show-jumping competition, delayed one week due to flooded arenas, was held on Saturday at Kibbutz Yagur's Riding Center.

The junior league (16 years, 85 meters) was won by Tzipori, Noa's team won the advanced riders (125m) event and Epeck Zohar brought home the blue rosette in the intermediate league (105m).

The fallen: Among the soldiers who died in the helicopter accident were three sportsmen who gave up promising sports careers to serve in combat units. Erez Stark, 21, Avishai Gidron, 19, and Aviv Gonen, 20, were among the 73 victims.

Stark played volleyball for Maccabi Kiryat Bialik, Hapoel Kiryat Ata and the national youth team. Gidron was an outstanding handball player who helped bring his team, Maccabi Kiryat Motzkin, back to the national league and Gonen, a judoka from the age of five, was a past national youth champion.

مركز الامم

French defense minister arrives today

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

French Defense Minister Charles Millon arrives today for what the French are describing as a 48-hour "technical visit" aimed at getting acquainted with the Israeli defense establishment and improving defense ties between the two countries.

While both sides have expressed official optimism on increasing business, French military sources are skeptical that France, the world's third largest defense exporter, will be able to dent the strong procurement links Israel has with the United States.

This is Millon's first visit to Israel and he is to be received by a full honor guard this morning

at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv and then meet with Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai. Officials said Mordechai is to brief Millon on the strategic developments in the region, but they are also likely to discuss French participation in a possible peacekeeping force in Lebanon.

Millon has said in the past that France, which has a battalion of soldiers stationed in south Lebanon as part of UNIFIL, is willing to station more troops there for peace.

Last December, David Ivry, then director-general of the Defense Ministry and now special adviser to Mordechai, along with a number of defense officials paid a secret visit to Paris

to discuss ways of reaching a peace agreement with Lebanon, a French source said.

Israeli and French officials are saying that the purpose of Millon's visit, which has been postponed twice before, is for him and Mordechai to get to know each other, and for defense ties, which are described as "good," to be strengthened.

However, French military officials are skeptical if there is a chance to seriously increase defense trade and/or cooperation. Millon is not bringing any defense industry

officials with him. He is, instead, bringing a number of senior journalists, two members of parliament and military advisers.

Defense trade today is so low that French military officials declined to give actual figures. It mainly revolves around the avionics market. The French are also interested in top-notch Israeli anti-tank missiles and armor protection. The French have reportedly proposed that Israel buy their Jaguar and Tiger

helicopters, but Israel has told them the IAF is content with its US-made Apaches.

Defense officials in Tel Aviv declined to identify the types of products currently being traded with the French, nor would they disclose the volume of business between the two countries.

"The IDF is based on US equipment. The Americans are giving the Israelis a lot of aid," one French military official said. "It's hard to break that bond."

But Defense Ministry sources said Israel is open to new markets if the products are good. "There is no reason why we can't purchase items in the future or do joint research and development," one source said. There is also talk of France building a larger ship for the navy. But considering that the

navy has recently commissioned its Sa'ar 5 class ships and is expected to start receiving three submarines built in Germany this year, that concept seems far off.

There are no joint French-Israeli training exercises and neither country appears eager for them to take place. France also does not use Israeli air space for training as the Americans do, and are doing this week in the Negev.

There is currently a process of reciprocal visits of top brass between the two countries. Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Shabak visited France last September, and his counterpart, Gen. Philippe Douen, is expected to visit in May.



Charles Millon

MKs take sides as 'Emigrant's Law' debate resumes

By LIAT COLLINS

A Knesset committee discussion on the proposal to allow Israelis abroad on election day to vote for the Knesset and the prime minister turned into a stormy debate on the question of "Who is an Israeli?"

The debate yesterday was held in the Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee, mainly to give MKs another opportunity to express their strong opinions on the bill. Processing the bill is the responsibility of the Knesset Law Committee.

MK Ruby Rivlin (Likud), who initiated the proposal, came under attack from some opposition MKs, most noticeably Naomi Chazan (Meretz), Ra'anan Cohen (Labor) and Ophir Pines (Labor). Rivlin defended the bill but conceded he would have to accept some changes.

"The question is no longer just 'Who is a Jew' but 'Who is an Israeli' and 'Who is an emigrant?' Who has the right to hold a valid Israeli passport?" he said.

"We mustn't forget that even under the current Citizenship Law any Israeli who happens to be here or can afford to fly here specially can vote on election day. We cannot ignore the numbers of people who go abroad to study, work for a while or improve themselves. But we should avoid the possibility that someone who immigrates for a week to get all the rights can then leave permanently and still be considered an Israeli."

Pines described the bill as "embarrassing" and Chazan called it "anti-Zionist." But some Labor MKs, such as Micha Goldman, did not dismiss it out of hand.

"There are some 300,000 Jews from the former Soviet Union who live elsewhere without ever hav-

ing passed through Israel. This bill could act as a springboard to reach them and get them to come here. It's not a populist bill. It's worthy of discussion," Goldman said.

According to Immigration and Absorption Ministry officials, there are some 500,000 Israelis living abroad, of whom 380,000 are adults.

Former emigrants who returned here told the committee they had tried to stay in touch with the country, paid national insurance taxes and felt close during periods of crisis. They said the law would probably help encourage other emigrants to return by making them feel wanted.

Many MKs, however, focused on the right of emigrants who are not serving in the IDF to influence affairs of war and peace.

"You're saying that a person who has decided to leave the country has the same rights as someone who serves in Lebanon?" asked Pines. "This is not the bill of a Zionist. It's a political bill."

MK Yuri Stern (Yisrael Ba'Aliya) said the arguments against the bill are "hypocritical." "Those same people who criticize it don't hesitate to rush to ask emigrants to donate money," Stern said. He said only someone who actually cared about the country and felt attached to it would vote in any case.

Meanwhile, Ephraim Oshaya (Labor) submitted a bill yesterday under which Israelis living abroad could only renew their passports if they had fulfilled their military service obligations: spent at least three months in Israel in the three years prior to the request to renew the passport; and paid the Treasury at least 5 percent of their earnings abroad.



Cardinal Edward Cassidy, head of the Vatican's Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews, gestures during a meeting yesterday with Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau at Hechal Shlomo in Jerusalem. Pope John Paul II definitely plans to visit here by the end of 1999, Cassidy said. Until now, Vatican-watchers had assumed that the pope would make a pilgrimage here during the year 2000, to mark the second millennium of Christianity. (Text: Haim Shapiro; Photo: Brian Bessler)

Reform rabbi may bring Lau, Sabbah together

By HAIM SHAPIRO

The Ashkenazi chief rabbi of Israel and the Latin patriarch of Jerusalem live only a few kilometers from each other, but it may take a Reform rabbi from America to bring them together.

Both Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau and Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah yesterday received participants in a conference on "The Future of Jewish-Catholic Relations in the World and in Israel/The Holy Land," sponsored by the Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum Foundation,

the Foundation to Advance Interfaith Trust and Harmony (FAITH), the Interreligious Coordinating Committee in Israel (ICCI), and the Israel Jewish Council for Interreligious Relations (IJCR).

During the meeting with Lau, Rabbi Mark Winer of FAITH said that the group had earlier called upon Sabbah, who had expressed the wish that there could be more of a dialogue between local Christians and Jews, including the chief rabbis.

Winer quoted Sabbah as saying that in this area, the political leaders are ahead of the

religious leaders.

Lau answered that Sabbah was right, but that in a situation where people are fighting for their lives, it is reasonable that the political leaders, who have more influence, take the initiative. However, he added, he would be happy to meet with Sabbah, whom he has never met.

Commenting on the issue, Cardinal Edward Cassidy, the head of the Vatican Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews, noted that only after the fighting in Bosnia had his church and the Orthodox Church begun a dialogue.

"If our church and the Orthodox Church had been in good relations, then maybe we would not have prevented the fighting, but we could have helped," Cassidy told Lau.

Earlier in their meeting, Lau had proposed to Cassidy that religious leaders establish an international committee to extend help in places like Rwanda and Zaire, where people were dying of hunger. As a Holocaust survivor, Lau said, he feels he cannot face such horrors without taking action.

Cassidy responded that the Vatican would be open to such an idea.

Foreign airlines snub rabbinate

The foreign airlines serving Israel last week decided to disregard the Chief Rabbinate's demand to serve only kosher food on flights from Israel. In a letter sent to several airlines last month, Rabbi Levi Bistritzky, head of the rabbinate's kashrut division, said the rabbinate had received inquiries from passengers who had assumed that all food on planes leaving Israel was kosher. Bistritzky demanded that the airlines either serve kosher food to all their passengers or clearly label their meals as non-kosher.

Airline sources said they would continue to serve kosher meals to passengers who request them, but would not force their passengers to eat kosher meals.

Haim Shapiro

Deri questioned for fourth time in Bar-On affair

By Jerusalem Post Staff

Shas leader MK Aryeh Deri was questioned by police for several hours yesterday evening on issues relating to the "Bar-On-for-Hebron" allegations, the fourth time he has been ques-

tioned in the affair.

Others said to be involved in the deal, including businessman David Appel and Prime Minister's Office Director-General Avigdor Lieberman, are expected to be questioned again in the next few days. Deri, Lieberman, and Appel are considered by police to be main players in the alleged deal, and

the investigation over the past week has focused on them.

The investigators have not yet uncovered any proof that attorney Roni Bar-On made any illegal agreements in advance of his appointment as attorney-general, nor is there any evidence that Shas conditioned its support of the Hebron redeployment agreement on Bar-On's appointment,

sources said.

But police investigators believe that there is evidence pointing to fraud and breach of trust by some of those involved in the affair. There are suspicions that certain officials made efforts to have Bar-On appointed, in the hope that as attorney-general Bar-On would protect their interests.

To achieve this, these officials gave incorrect information and withheld information from senior officials, including the prime minister.

Police are also investigating whether some of those involved in the affair threatened officials in the Prime Minister's Office who opposed Bar-On's appointment.



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